

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
22 January 2004 (22.01.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/007743 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **C12Q**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/IB2003/003727**
- (22) International Filing Date: 17 July 2003 (17.07.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
60/396,432 17 July 2002 (17.07.2002) US
- (71) Applicant: **COLEY PHARMACEUTICAL GMBH**
[DE/DE]; Elisabeth-Selbert-Strasse 9, 40764 Langenfeld
(DE).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **WAGNER, Hermann** [DE/DE]; Kaagangerstrasse 36, 82279 Eching (DE). **KRETZSCHMAR, Hans** [DE/DE]; Nelkenweg 5a, 82515 Wolfratshausen (DE). **SETHI, Shneh** [DE/DE]; Platanen Strasse 56, 81377 Muenchen (DE).
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*



WO 2004/007743 A2

(54) Title: USE OF CPG NUCLEIC ACIDS IN PRION-DISEASE

(57) Abstract: Methods are provided which are useful in the treatment of prion diseases and other protein deposit diseases, including, for example, post-exposure prophylaxis against the development of iatrogenic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The methods involve the use of immunostimulatory nucleic acids, including CpG nucleic acids.

- 1 -

USE OF CpG NUCLEIC ACIDS IN PRION DISEASE

Field of the Invention

The instant invention pertains to methods useful in the treatment of prion diseases, including, for example, post-exposure prophylaxis against the development of iatrogenic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. The methods involve the use of immunostimulatory nucleic acids.

Background of the Invention

Prion diseases include a number of fatal, neurodegenerative diseases believed to be caused by aggregates of normal protein that is present in an abnormal conformation. The normal protein, prion protein, is usually present in the cell membrane of many tissues, particularly neuronal tissue. The abnormally conformed prion protein is believed to be directly involved in converting normally conformed prion protein into more of the abnormally conformed prion protein, which then self-assembles into aggregates that are damaging to neuronal tissue anatomy and function.

At least some of the prion diseases are transmissible. However, unlike bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites, and other replicating pathogens, transmissible prions are simply proteins; they are transmissible without any accompanying nucleic acid. For reasons that are not yet fully understood, the abnormally conformed prion proteins normally do not induce an immune response. Thus, exposure of a healthy individual to abnormally conformed prion protein can initiate a prion disease that can go unchecked by the immune system.

Exposure to abnormally conformed prion protein thus represents a health risk to susceptible individuals. Such individuals include humans and non-humans, principally cows and sheep. Exposure can come about through contact with prion-diseased animal products through ingestion, iatrogenic or work-related exposure, transplantation, and administration of pharmaceutical preparations.

Summary of the Invention

The instant invention is based in part on the unexpected discovery by the inventors that administration of immunostimulatory nucleic acid to a subject that is exposed to abnormally conformed prion protein is an effective treatment of prion disease. The immunostimulatory nucleic acid effectively delayed and even prevented disease in animals

- 2 -

administered very large doses of prion-diseased brain homogenates that uniformly caused fatal disease in all untreated control animals similarly exposed to prion-diseased brain homogenates.

The immunostimulatory nucleic acids are useful in the treatment of prion diseases, including Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), and scrapie. The methods of the invention are also useful for the study of these diseases, for instance, in animal models. The methods will also be useful for developing an understanding of how prion proteins normally fail to elicit an immune response and how an immune response can be elicited and used to treat prion protein disease.

The immunostimulatory nucleic acids are also useful in the treatment of other neurologic diseases involving abnormal protein deposits or aggregates. Such diseases include Alzheimer's disease, which involves deposits of amyloid. The main component of amyloid plaques is amyloid- β peptide ($A\beta$), a fibrillar 40-42 amino acid peptide that accumulates extracellularly and causes neuronal death.

In one aspect the invention provides a method for treating a prion disease in a subject. The method involves administering to a subject having or at risk of developing a prion disease a CpG nucleic acid in an effective amount to treat the prion disease. In one embodiment the administering follows exposure of the subject to a prion protein that is associated with a prion disease. In one embodiment the prion disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE). In one embodiment the subject is a human.

In various preferred embodiments, the prion disease is scrapie, BSE, or a form of CJD. The CJD in one embodiment is iatrogenic CJD (iCJD). In another embodiment the CJD is variant CJD (vCJD). In yet another embodiment the CJD is sporadic CJD.

In one aspect the invention provides a method for inducing an immune response to a prion protein. The method according to this aspect of the invention involves the steps of contacting an antigen-presenting cell (APC) with a prion protein and contacting the APC with a CpG nucleic acid in an effective amount to induce an immune response to the prion protein. In one embodiment the immune response occurs in vivo. In one embodiment the immune response occurs in vitro. In all embodiments according to this aspect of the invention the APC is preferably chosen from a B cell, a dendritic cell, a macrophage, and a monocyte. In one preferred embodiment the APC is a dendritic cell.

- 3 -

Also according to this aspect of the invention, in one embodiment the APC expresses a Toll-like receptor (TLR) that signals in response to the CpG nucleic acid. It has recently been reported that CpG nucleic acid can specifically induce a particular TLR, designated TLR9, to signal. Accordingly, in one embodiment the TLR is TLR9.

In one embodiment the prion protein includes prion protein:scrapie form (PrP^{Sc}). In another embodiment the prion protein includes a fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc}. In yet another embodiment the prion protein includes a derivative of PrP^{Sc} or a derivative of a fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc}.

In one embodiment the prion protein is prion protein:scrapie form (PrP^{Sc}). In another embodiment the prion protein is a fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc}. In yet another embodiment the prion protein is a derivative of PrP^{Sc} or a derivative of a fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc}.

It has been reported that certain CpG nucleic acids are more effective in one species than in another. Accordingly, in preferred embodiments the CpG nucleic acid is optimized for use in a species of the subject.

It has also been reported that CpG nucleic acids appear to fall into different classes based on certain structural features as well as their function. At least three classes are believed to exist, denoted Class A, Class B, and Class C. In one embodiment the CpG nucleic acid is a class B CpG nucleic acid. In one embodiment the CpG nucleic acid is a class A CpG nucleic acid. In one embodiment the CpG nucleic acid is a class C CpG nucleic acid.

These and other features of the invention are described in greater detail in connection with the detailed description of the invention.

Detailed Description of the Invention

A major step in the study of prions and the diseases that they cause was the discovery and purification of a protein designated prion protein (PrP). Bolton et al. (1982) *Science* 218:1309-11; Prusiner SB et al. (1982) *Biochemistry* 21:6942-50; McKinley MP et al. (1983) *Cell* 35:57-62. Complete prion protein-encoding genes have since been cloned, sequenced and expressed in transgenic animals. PrP^C is encoded by a single-copy host gene (Basler K et

- 4 -

al. (1986) *Cell* 46:417-28) and is normally found at the outer surface of neurons. Prion diseases are accompanied by the conversion of PrP^C into a modified form called PrP^{Sc}.

The scrapie isoform of the prion protein (PrP^{Sc}) is thought necessary for both the transmission and pathogenesis of the transmissible neurodegenerative diseases of animals and humans. See Prusiner SB (1991) *Science* 252:1515-22. The most common prion diseases of animals are scrapie of sheep and goats and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE; "mad cow disease") of cattle. Wilesmith J et al. (1991) *Microbiol Immunol* 172:21-38. Four prion diseases of humans have been identified: (1) kuru, (2) Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), (3) Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker (GSS) syndrome, and (4) fatal familial insomnia. Gajdusek DC (1977) *Science* 197:943-60; Medori et al. (1992) *N Engl J Med* 326:444-9.

Most CJD cases are sporadic, but about 10-15% are inherited as autosomal dominant disorders that are caused by mutations in the human PrP gene. Hsiao et al. (1990) *Neurology* 40:1820-7; Goldfarb et al. (1992) *Science* 258:806-8. Iatrogenic CJD has been caused by human growth hormone derived from cadaveric pituitaries as well as dura mater grafts. Brown et al. (1992) *Lancet* 340:24-7. Despite numerous attempts to link CJD to an infectious source such as the consumption of meat from scrapie-infected sheep, none has been identified to date (Harries-Jones et al. (1988) *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 51:1113-9) except in cases of iatrogenically induced disease. On the other hand, kuru, which for many decades devastated the Fore and neighboring tribes of the New Guinea highlands, is believed to have been spread by infection during ritualistic cannibalism.

The major component of purified infectious prions, designated PrP 27-30, is the proteinase K resistant core of a larger native protein PrP^{Sc} which is the disease causing form of the ubiquitous cellular protein PrP^C. PrP^{Sc} is found only in scrapie infected cells, whereas PrP^C is present in both infected and uninfected cells implicating PrP^{Sc} as the major, if not the sole, component of infectious prion particles. Since both PrP^C and PrP^{Sc} are encoded by the same single copy gene, great effort has been directed toward unraveling the mechanism by which PrP^{Sc} is derived from PrP^C. Central to this goal has been the characterization of physical and chemical differences between these two molecules. Properties distinguishing PrP^{Sc} from PrP^C include low solubility (Meyer RK et al. (1986) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 83:2310-4), poor antigenicity (Kascsak RJ et al. (1987) *J Virol* 61:3688-93; Serban D et al. (1990) *Neurology* 40:110-7), protease resistance (Oesch B et al. (1985) *Cell* 40:735-46), and polymerization of PrP 27-30 into rod-shaped aggregates which are very similar, on the

- 5 -

ultrastructural and histochemical levels, to the PrP amyloid plaques seen in scrapie-diseased brains (Prusiner SB et al. (1983) *Cell* 35(2 Pt 1):349-58). By using proteinase K it is possible to denature PrP^C but not PrP^{Sc}. To date, attempts to identify any post-translational chemical modifications in PrP^C that lead to its conversion to PrP^{Sc} have proven fruitless. Stahl N et al. (1993) *Biochemistry* 31:5043-53. Consequently, it has been proposed that PrP^C and PrP^{Sc} are in fact conformational isomers of the same molecule.

Conformational description of PrP using conventional techniques has been hindered by problems of solubility and the difficulty in producing sufficient quantities of pure protein. However, PrP^C and PrP^{Sc} are conformationally distinct. Theoretical calculations based upon the amino acid sequences of PrPs from several species have predicted four putative helical motifs in the molecule. Experimental spectroscopic data would indicate that in PrP^C these regions adopt alpha-helical arrangements, with virtually no beta-sheet. Pan et al. (1993) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 90:10962-6). In dramatic contrast, in the same study it was found that PrP^{Sc} and PrP 27-30 possess significant beta-sheet content, which is typical of amyloid proteins. Moreover, studies with extended synthetic peptides, corresponding to PrP amino acid residues 90-145, have demonstrated that these truncated molecules may be converted to either alpha-helical or beta-sheet structures by altering their solution conditions. The transition of PrP^C to PrP^{Sc} requires the adoption of beta-sheet structure by regions that were previously alpha-helical.

In general, scrapie infection fails to produce an immune response, with host organisms being tolerant to PrP^{Sc} from the same species. Polyclonal anti-PrP antibodies have been raised in rabbits following immunization with large amounts of Syrian hamster PrP 27-30. Bendheim PE et al. (1985) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 82:997-1001; Bode L et al. (1985) *J Gen Virol* 66:2471-8. Similarly, a handful of anti-PrP monoclonal antibodies have been produced in mice. Kascsak RJ et al. (1987) *J Virol* 61:3688-93; Barry RA et al. (1986) *J Infect Dis* 154:518-21. These antibodies are able to recognize native PrP^C and denatured PrP^{Sc} from both Syrian hamsters and humans equally well, but do not bind to murine PrP. Unsurprisingly, the epitopes of these antibodies were mapped to regions of sequence containing amino acid differences between Syrian hamster and murine PrP. Rogers et al. (1991) *J Immunol* 147:3568-74.

The DNA sequence of the human, sheep and cow PrP genes have been determined, allowing, in each case, the prediction of the complete amino acid sequence of their respective

- 6 -

PrP proteins. The normal amino acid sequence which occurs in the vast majority of individuals is referred to as the wild-type PrP sequence. This wild-type sequence is subject to certain characteristic polymorphic variations. In the case of human PrP, two polymorphic amino acids occur at residues 129 (Met/Val) and 219 (Glu/Lys). Sheep PrP has two amino acid polymorphisms at residues 136 and 171, while bovine PrP has either five or six repeats of an eight amino acid motif sequence (octarepeats) in the amino terminal region of the mature prion protein. While none of these polymorphisms are of themselves pathogenic, they appear to influence prion diseases. Distinct from these normal variations of the wild-type PrP proteins, certain mutations of the human PrP gene which alter either specific amino acid residues of PrP or the number of octarepeats have been identified which segregate with inherited human prion diseases.

For example, sequences of chicken, bovine, sheep, rat, and mouse PrP genes are disclosed and published within Gabriel JM et al. (1992) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 89:9097-101. A sequence for a PrP gene of Syrian hamster is published in Basler K et al. (1986) *Cell* 46:417-28. A PrP gene of sheep is published by Goldmann W et al. (1990) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 87:2476-80. A gene sequence for bovine PrP is published in Goldmann W et al. (1991) *J Gen Virol* 72:201-4. A sequence for chicken PrP gene is published in Harris DA et al. (1991) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 88:7664-8. A PrP gene sequence for mink is published in Kretzschmar HA et al. (1992) *J Gen Virol* 73:2757-61. A human PrP gene sequence is published in Kretzschmar HA et al. (1986) *DNA* 5:315-24. A PrP gene sequence for mouse is published in Loch C et al. (1986) *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 83:6372-6. A PrP gene sequence for sheep is published in Westaway D et al. (1994) *Genes Dev* 8:959-69. These publications are all incorporated herein by reference to disclose and describe the PrP gene and PrP amino acid sequences.

Human PrP cDNA (SEQ ID NO:1; GenBank Accession No. M13899)

```

cggcgccgag agcttctcct ctctcacga ccgaggcaga gcagtcatta tggcgaacct 60
tggctgctgg atgctggttc tctttgtggc cacatggagt gacctgggcc tctgcaagaa 120
gcgcccgaag cctggaggat ggaacactgg gggcagccga taccgggggc agggcagccc 180
tggaggcaac cgctaccac ctcagggcgg tgggtggctgg gggcagcctc atggtggtgg 240
ctgggggcag cctcatggtg gtggtgggg gcagcccat ggtggtggct ggggacagcc 300
tcatggtggt ggctggggtc aaggaggtgg caccacagt cagtggaaca agccgagtaa 360
gccaaaacc aacatgaagc acatggctgg tgctgcagca gctggggcag tgggtggggg 420
ccttgccggc tacatgctgg gaagtgccat gacaggccc atcacatt tcggcagtga 480
ctatgaggac cgttactatc gtgaaaacat gcaccgttac cccaaccaag tgtactacag 540
gccccgggat gagtacagca accagaacaa ctttgtgcac gactgcgtca atatcacaat 600
caagcagcac acggtcacca caaccacaa gggggagaac ttcaccgaga ccgacgttaa 660
gatgatggag cgcgtggttg agcagatgtg taccaccag tacgagaggg aatctcaggc 720

```

- 7 -

ctattaccag	agaggatcga	gcatggtcct	cttctcctct	ccacctgtga	tcctcctgat	780
ctctttcctc	atcttcctga	tagtgggatg	aggaaggtct	tcctgttttc	accatctttc	840
taatcttttt	ccagcttgag	ggaggcggta	tccacctgca	gcccttttag	tgggtggtgc	900
tcactctttc	ttctctcttt	gtcccggata	ggctaataca	tacccttggc	actgatgggc	960
actggaaaac	atagagtaga	cctgagatgc	tgggtcaagcc	ccctttgatt	gagttcatca	1020
tgagccgttg	ctaagccag	gccagtaaaa	gtataacagc	aaataacat	tggttaatct	1080
ggacttatatt	ttggacttag	tgcaacaggt	tgaggctaaa	acaaatctca	gaacagctctg	1140
aaataccttt	gcctgggata	ctctggctcc	ttcagcagct	agagctcagt	atactaatgc	1200
cctatcttag	tagagatttc	atagctatct	agagatattt	tccattttta	gaaaaccgga	1260
caacatttct	gccaggtttg	ttaggaggcc	acatgatact	tattcaaaaa	aatcctagag	1320
attcttagct	cttgggatgc	aggctcagcc	cgctggagca	tgagctctgt	gtgtaccgag	1380
aactggggtg	atgttttact	tttcacagta	tgggctacac	agcagctgtt	caacaagagt	1440
aaatattgtc	acaacactga	acctctggct	agaggacata	ttcacagtga	acataactgt	1500
aacatatatg	aaaggcttct	gggacttgaa	ttcaaatggt	tgggaatggg	gcccttgagg	1560
gcaacctccc	atcttagatg	tttaaaggac	cctatatgtg	gcattccttt	ctttaaacta	1620
taggtaatta	aggcagctga	aaagtaaat	gccttctaga	cactgaaggc	aaatctcctt	1680
tgtccattta	cctggaaacc	agaatgattt	tgacatacag	gagagctgca	gttgtgaaag	1740
caccatcatc	atagaggatg	atgtaattaa	aaaatggtca	gtgtgcaaa	aaaagaactg	1800
cttgcatctt	tttatttctg	tctcataatt	gtcaaaaacc	agaattaggt	caagttcata	1860
gtttctgtaa	ttggcttttg	aatcaaagaa	tagggagaca	atctaaaaaa	tatcttaggt	1920
tggagatgac	agaaatatga	ttgatttgaa	gtggaaaaag	aaattctggt	aatgttaatt	1980
aaagtaaaat	tattccctga	attgtttgat	attgtcacct	agcagatatg	tattactttt	2040
ctgcaatgtt	attattggct	tgcaatttgt	gagtatctat	gtaaaaatat	atatgtatat	2100
aaaatatata	ttgcatagga	cagacttagg	agttttgttt	agagcagtta	acatctgaag	2160
tgtctaatac	attaactttt	gtaaggtact	gaataactta	tatgtgggaa	acccttttgc	2220
gtggtcctta	ggcttacaat	gtgcactgaa	tcgtttcatg	taagaatcca	aagtggacac	2280
cattaacagg	tctttgaaat	atgcactgac	tttatatttt	ctatatattg	aactttgcat	2340
gttcttggtt	tgttatataa	aaaaattgta	aatgtttaat	atctgactga	aattaaacga	2400
gcgaagatga	gcacc					2415

Mink PrP genomic DNA (SEQ ID NO:2; GenBank Accession No. S46825)

tcattttggt	ttgttttggt	ttgtttgcag	ataagccatc	atggtgaaaa	gccacatagg	60
cagctggctc	ctggttctct	ttgtggccac	atggagtgc	attggcttct	gcaagaagcg	120
gccaagcct	ggaggaggct	ggaacactgg	ggggagccga	taccagggc	agggcagtc	180
tggaggcaac	cgtacccac	cccagggtgg	tggcggtgg	ggccagcccc	acgggggtgg	240
ctggggacag	ccccacgggg	gtggctgggg	tcagccccac	gggggtggct	ggggacagcc	300
gcatggtggc	ggtggctggg	gtcaaggtgg	tgggagccac	ggtcagtggg	gcaagcccag	360
taagcccaaa	accaacatga	agcatgtggc	gggagccgca	gcagccgggg	cggtcgtggg	420
gggcctgggc	ggctacatgc	tggggagcgc	catgagcagg	cccctcattc	attttggtcaa	480
cgactatgag	gaccgctact	accgtgagaa	catgtaccgc	taccccaacc	aagtgtacta	540
caagccggtg	gatcagtaca	gcaaccagaa	caacttcgtg	catgactgcg	tcaacatcac	600
ggtcaagcag	cacacggtga	ccaccaccac	caaggcgag	aacttcacgg	agaccgacat	660
gaagatcatg	gagcgcgtgg	tggagcagat	gtgtgtcacc	cagtaccagc	gagagtccga	720
ggcttactac	cagagggggg	cgagcgccat	cctcttctcg	ccccctccc	tgatcctcct	780
catctcactg	ctcattctcc	tgatagtggg	atgaggatgg	ccttcccatt	ctctccatcg	840
tcttcacctt	ttacaggttg	ggggaggggg	tgtctaccta	cagccctgta	gtggtggtgt	900
ctcatctctg	cttctcttta	tcacccatag	gctaattccc	ttggccctga	tggccctggg	960
aaatgtagag	cagacccagg	atgctattta	ttcaagcccc	catgtgttgg	agtccttcag	1020
gggccaatgc	tagtgcaggg	ctgagaataa	cagcaaatca	tcattggttg	acctagggtc	1080
gcttttttgg	tgttgttgc	tagtgcagct	gaccgaggct	aaaacaattc	tcaaaacagt	1140
tttcaaatac	ctttgcctgg	aaacctctgg	ctcctgctgc	agctagagct	cagtacatta	1200
atgtcccatc	ttagccgtgt	cttcatagca	acttggggaa	gtttttctcc	ccactctaaa	1260
agaacgcgat	tgcaactccc	tgtgcaaaga	acatttctgc	caaatttgaa	aggaggccac	1320
atgatattca	ttcaaaaagc	aaaactagaa	accctttgct	cttggaacga	agcccggcct	1380
gctaggagca	ccaaactggg	gcgatggttt	gcattctgcg	gcgtgggcta	tgccggcagcc	1440
gaggtgtcca	gcgtaaatat	tgatgcgacg	ctagacctag	gcagaggatg	tttgacacag	1500
gaatgaacat	aatcaacagt	gcgaaaatgc	tacaaaaaat	cccacactgg	ggagcagtgt	1560
ccttgagggc	aagttttttt	ccttttggga	cattttaaagc	ccctatatgt	ggcattcctt	1620

- 8 -

```

tctttcgtaa cctaaactat agataattaa ggcagttaaa aattgaactt ccttccaggc 1680
cccaagagca aatctttgtt cacttacctg gaaaccagaa tgattttgac acagagggaag 1740
gtgcagctgt taaaaataacc ctcacccctag aagattgcat catggagaaa acgatccgta 1800
gacaaaaatg atcgcatttc ttcattgctg tctcgtaatt gacagaaacc agaattatgt 1860
caagtcctag tttctataat cagcttttga atcaaagaat ggaagtccat ccaaaaaaaaa 1920
aaaagaaata ccttaggtca cccatgacag aaatacccat tcagggttaga aaaaagggaat 1980
tctgttaact gttatttaag taaggcaaaa ttattgtccg gattgttcga tatcatcagc 2040
tagcagataa attagcattc tgcaatgttc cgggcttgca ctgtgcgggt atttgatgtt 2100
aaaaaaaaatt attatatata ttgtgtatga caaacttaga agtttttgct agaggagtta 2160
acatctgata tatctaattg accaccagtt ttggaaggta ctaaatactt aatatgtaga 2220
aatccttttg cgtggtcctc aggttacac gtgcactgaa tagttttgta tgatagagcc 2280
catgtggtct tcgaaatatg catgtacttt atattttcta ttttgtaac tgggcatgta 2340
cttgataaaa aaatgtataa acattcgaac tcttgactag aattaaacag gaactgagtg 2400
tgtcccatgt gtttgcagtg acattcacca ccgcaccctg tgttgg 2446

```

Syrian Hamster PrP cDNA (SEQ ID NO:3; GenBank Accession No. M14054)

```

tcgaaaaatc ccctctttag caatttcttg ctcctagagt ttcagcaatt gctttctcgc 60
tccattaggc aacctttcat tttctcacct tccccattat gtaacgggag caatgggttc 120
tggaccagtc ttccattaaa gatgattttt atagtcggtg agcgccgtca gggagtagtg 180
acacctgggg gcggtttaaa ccgtacaatc ccttaaacca gtctggagcg gtgactcatt 240
tccccaggga gaagtggcgc ggccattggt gagcacgacg caagccccgc cccaccagc 300
ccggccccgc cctgtaccc ctcctgactc actgccccgc ccgtccccc gcggcgctccg 360
agcagcagac cgagaaggca catcgagtc actcgtcgcg tcggtggcag gtaagcggct 420
tctgaagcct ggccccggga agggtgctgg agccaggcct cggtgaagcct tcggcttccc 480
agagccaagc ccggcttact ccggctctcg gggcgctgag gccgcggggc tgagggtgag 540
tctggctggg aggtgaccgc gcacccgcag ccgcgcgtct ccttgaggga ccgaacccca 600
ggagaggcca ggagccatcc cttcctcccc agccccgctc acccccagag tcgctcgggg 660
atgggggatg ggggatgggg tggcatcttt tgactgtcgt ttgctgtttt cttctctctt 720
tgtaatagct acagcgaaca taattttacc cagggttcca ccgtggtctc gtccgtcctc 780
ggcatctctc agtccagtac ataccaagg 810

```

Sheep PrP cDNA (SEQ ID NO:4; GenBank Accession No. AJ223072)

```

atggtgaaaa gccacatagg cagtgtgac cgtgttctct ttgtggccat gtggagtgc 60
gtgggcctct gcaagaagcg accaaaacct ggcggaggat ggaacactgg ggggagccga 120
taccggggac agggcagtc tggaggaac cgctatccac ctcaggagg ggggtggctg 180
ggtcagcccc atggaggtgg ctggggccaa cctcatggag gtggctgggg tcagcccat 240
ggtgtgtgct ggggacagcc acatggtggt ggaggctggg gtcaaggtgg tagccacagt 300
cagtgaaca agcccagtaa gccaaaaacc aacatgaagc atgtggcagg agctgctgca 360
gctggagcag tggtaggggg ccttgggtggc tacatgtcgg gaagtgccat gagcaggcct 420
cttatacatt ttggcaatga ctatgaggac cgttactatc gtgaaaacat gtaccgttac 480
cccaaccaag tgtactacag accagtggat cagtatagta accagaacaa ctttgtgcat 540
gactgtgtca acatcacagt caagcaacac acagtcacca ccaccacca gggggagaac 600
ttaccgaaa ctgacatcaa gataatggag cgagtgtgag agcaaatgt catcaccag 660
taccagagag aatcccaggc ttattaccaa aggggggcaa gtgtgatcct cttttcttcc 720
cctcctgtga tctcctcat ctcttctctc atttttctca tagtaggata ggggcaacct 780
tctgttttc attatcttct taatctttgc cagggtgggg gagggagtgt ctacctgcag 840
ccctgtagtg gtggtgtctc atttcttctg tctctcttgt tacctgtata ataataccct 900
tggcgcttac agcactggga aatgacaagc agacatgaga tgctgtttat tcaagtccca 960
ttagctcagt attctaattg cccatcttag cagtgatatt gttagcaatt tctcatttgt 1020
ttcaagaaca cctgactaca tttccctttg ggaatagcat ttctgccaag tctggaagga 1080
ggccacataa tattcattca aaaaaacaaa actggaaatc cttagttcat agaccaggg 1140
tccacctgtg tgagagcatg tgtcctgtgt ctgcagagaa ctataaagga tattctgcat 1200
tttgacaggt acatttgacg gtaacacagc catctattgc atcaagaatg gatattcatg 1260
caacctttga cttatgggca gaggacatct tcacaaggaa tgaacataat acaaaggctt 1320
ctgagactaa aaaattccaa catatggaag aggtgccctt ggtggcagcc ttcattttg 1380
tatgtttaag caccttcaag tgatattcct tcttttagta acataaagta tagataatta 1440
aggtacctta attaaactac cttctagaca ctgagagcaa atctgttgtt tatctggaac 1500

```

- 9 -

```

ccaggatgat tttgacattg cttagggatg tgagagttgg actgtaaaga aagctgagtg 1560
ctgaagagtt catgcttttg aactatagtg ttggagaaaa ctcttgagag tcccttggac 1620
tgaaaggaga tcagtcctga atattcattg gaaggactga tgctgaagct gaaactccaa 1680
tactttggtc acctgatggg aagaactgaa ggcaggaggg atgctaggaa agactgaagg 1740
caggaggaga aggggacgac agaggatgag atggctagat ggcacatggg actcaatgga 1800
catgagctta agtaaaactcc aggagttggc aatggacagg gagacctggc gtcctgcagt 1860
ccatgggtgtc gcagagtcgg acacgattga gtgactaaat tgaggtgacc cagatttaac 1920
atagagaatg cagatacaaa actcatattc atttgattga atcttttcct gaaccagtgc 1980
tagtgcttga ctggttaagg tataacagca tatataggtt atgtgatgaa gagatagtgt 2040
acatgaaata tgtgcatttc tttattgctg tcttataatt gtcaaaaaag aaaattagggt 2100
ccttgggttct tgtaaaattg acttgaatca aaaggagggc atttaagaa ataaattaga 2160
gatgatagaa atctgatcca ttcagagtag aaaaagaaat tccattactg ttattaaaga 2220
aggtaaaatt attccctgaa ttgttcaata ttgtcaccta gcagatagac actattctgt 2280
actgttttta ctagcttgca ccttgtggta tccatgtaa aaacatattt gcatatgaca 2340
aactttttct gttagagcaa ttaacatctg aaccacctaa tgcattacct gtttttgtaa 2400
ggtagctttt gtaaggtagt aaggagatgt gggtttaatc cctaggtcag gtaaatcccc 2460
tagaggaaga aatggcaacc cactccagta ttcttgccag gaaaatccag tgggcagagg 2520
agcctggcag ggtacagtct aagagcatgg ggttgcaaag agtgagacaa gacttgagct 2580
actgaacaat aaggacaata aatgctgggt cggctaaaag gttcattagg tttttttct 2640
gtaagatggc tctagtagta cttgtcttta tcttcattcg aaacaatttt gttagattgt 2700
atgtgacagc tcttgatca gcatgcattt gaaaaaaca tcacaattgg taaatttttg 2760
tatagccatc ttactattga agatggaaga aaagaagcaa aattttcagc atatcatgtc 2820
gtacttattt caagaaagat aaccaaagt caaaaatgta tttgtgaagt gtatggagaa 2880
ggggctgcaa ctgatcaagc ttgtcaaagt agtttgtgaa gtttcgtgct ggagatttct 2940
tattggacga tgctccacag ttggatatac cagttgaagt tgatagtgat caaattgaga 3000
tattgagaat aatcgatgtt ataccacgag ggagatagct gacatactca aaatatccaa 3060
atagaacctt gaaaaccatt tgcaccatct cagttatgtt aatcactttg atgtttgagt 3120
tccacataag caaaaaaaca acaacaaaaa aaatacaac cttgaccata tttgcgcagt 3180
cagttctcta ctgaaatgat tgaaaacact ttgtttttaa aaacagattt tgattagcat 3240
tgggtcagat acaataacgt agatggaaga aattgtaggg tgagcaaat gaaccacacc 3300
accaaaggcc agtcttctc taaagaagat gtgtgtatgg tgggattgga aagtaatcct 3360
ctattatgga ttcttctgga aaacactgct cctaattaga ccaactgaaa acagcactca 3420
acgaaaagca tccagaatta gtcaatagaa aacataatct tccatcagga taacgcaaga 3480
ctacatattt ctttgatgac ccagcatggc tggagtttct gattcatctg ttgtattcag 3540
acgttgcatc tttggatttt tccattttat ttcagctctac aaaattatca taatggaaaa 3600
aatttccatt ccctggaaga tgtaaaagtc atctggaaaa tttctttgct caaaaagata 3660
aaaagttttg tgaaacagaa attatgacgt tgcctgaaaa atggcagaag gtatgggaac 3720
aaaagagtga ctatgttgtt tggtaaaagt cttagtgaat atgaaaaatg tgtcttttat 3780
ttttatttaa acaccaaagg cacatttttag caaccataa ctgaatctaa aggaaactct 3840
tctgtgtgtt gtccttacag tgtgcaactg tagtttgtat aagaatccag agtgatattt 3900
gaaatacgca tgtgcttata ttttttatat ttgtaacttt gcatgtactt gttttgtgtt 3960
aaaagtttat aaatatttaa tatctgacta aaattaaaca ggagctaaaa ggagtatctt 4020

```

Bovine PrP cDNA (SEQ ID NO:5; GenBank Accession No. X55882)

```

atggtgaaaa gccacatagg cagttggatc ctggttctct ttgtggccat gtggagtgc 60
gtgggcctct gcaagaagcg accaaaacct ggaggaggat ggaacactgg ggggagccga 120
taccaggac agggcagtc tggaggcaac cgttatccac ctgaggagg ggggtggctg 180
ggtcagcccc atggaggttg ctggggccag cctcatggag gtggctgggg ccagcctcat 240
ggaggtggct ggggtcagcc ccatggtggt ggctggggac agccacatgg tgggtgaggc 300
tggggtcaag gtggtaccca cggccaatgg gtaagccaaa aaccaacatg 360
aagcatgtgg caggagctgc tgcagctgga gcagtggtag ggggccttgg tggctacatg 420
ctgggaagtg ccatgagcag gcctcttata cattttggca gtgactatga ggaccgttac 480
tatcgtgaaa acatgcaccg ttacccaac caagtgtact acaggccagt ggatcagtat 540
agtaaccaga acaactttgt gcatgactgt gtcaacatca cagtcaagga acacacagtc 600
accaccacca ccaaggggga gaacttcacc gaaactgaca tcaagatgat ggagcgagt 660
gtggagcaaa tgtgcattac ccagtaccag agagaatccc aggttatta ccaacgaggg 720
gcaagtgtga tcctcttctc tccccctcct gtgactctcc tcactctctt cctcattttt 780
ctcatagtag gatag 795

```

- 10 -

Chicken PrP cDNA (SEQ ID NO:6; GenBank Accession No. M61145)

gaattccctc	ggcagccagc	tcctccctct	cgctatttat	tcctttctcc	ccccctacg	60
ctggatctgg	atcatctcaa	gccgagcggg	gacggcttct	tggatcgctc	atacataaat	120
atctgtgagt	cagaggaagc	aaccaccgac	cccaagacct	caccccgagc	catggctagg	180
ctctcacca	cctgctgcct	gctggccctg	ctgctcgccg	cctgcaccga	cgctgccctc	240
tccaagaagg	gcaaaggcaa	acccagtggg	gggggttggg	gcgccgggag	ccatcgccag	300
cccagctacc	cccgccagcc	gggctaccct	cataaccag	ggtagcccca	taaccagggg	360
tacccccaca	accctggcta	tcccataaac	cccggtctacc	cccagaacct	tggctacccc	420
cataaccag	gttaccagag	ctgggggtcaa	ggctacaacc	catccagcgg	aggaagttac	480
cacaaccaga	agccatggaa	acccccaaa	accaacttca	agcacgtggc	gggggcagca	540
gcggcggggt	ctgtgggtggg	gggcttgggg	ggctacgcca	tggggcgcg	tatgtcaggg	600
atgaactacc	acttcgatag	acccgatgag	taccgatggg	ggagtgaaga	ctcggcgcg	660
tatcccaacc	gggtttacta	ccgggattac	agcagccccg	tgccacagga	cgtcttcgtg	720
gccgattgct	ttaacatcac	agtactgag	tacagcattg	gccctgctgc	caagaagaac	780
acctccgagg	ctgtggcggc	agcaaaccaa	acggaggtgg	agatggagaa	caaagtgggtg	840
acgaagggtg	tccgcgagat	gtgcgtgcag	cagtaccgcg	agtaccgcct	ggcctcgggg	900
atccagctgc	accctgctga	cacctggctc	gccgtcctcc	tcctcctcct	caccaccctt	960
tttgccatgc	actgatggga	tgcctgccc	cggccctgtg	gcagtgaagt	gacatcgtgt	1020
ccccgtgcc	acccatgggg	tgttccttgt	cctcgctttt	gtccatcttt	ggtgaagatg	1080
tcccccgct	gcctccccgc	aggctctgat	ttgggcaa	gggaggggat	tttgtcctgt	1140
cctggctcgtg	gcaggacggc	tgctgggtgg	ggagtgggat	gccccaaaaa	tggccttcac	1200
cacttcctcc	tcctcttcct	ttctggggcg	gagatatggg	ctcgtccagc	ccttattgtc	1260
cctgcaagag	cgtatctgaa	aatcctcttt	gctaacaagc	agggttttac	ctaactctgt	1320
tagccccagt	gacagcagag	cgctttccc	cagggcacac	caaccccaag	ctgaggtgct	1380
tggcagccac	acgtcccatg	gaggctgatg	ggttttgggg	cgtecccaagc	aacaccctgg	1440
gctactgagg	tgcaattgta	gctctttaat	ctgccaatcc	caaccctacc	gtgtagatag	1500
gaactgcctg	ctctgcattt	tgcatgctgc	aaacacctcc	tgccgcagcg	ccccaaaaat	1560
agagtgaatt	gggaatagtg	aggctgaagc	cacagcagct	tgggattggg	ctcatcatat	1620
caatccatga	tgctttgctt	ccagctgagc	ctcactgccc	ttttatagcc	tgccagagg	1680
aaggggagcgc	tgctaaatgc	ccaaaaaggt	aacactgagc	aaaagcttat	ttcaatgtat	1740
gatagagaac	gagtgcattc	cgcacagatc	agccatggga	gcacgtttg	ccatcagccc	1800
caaaacccaa	aggatgctaa	aatgcagcca	aagggggaatc	aagcacgcag	ggaaggactt	1860
gaatcagctc	aactggattg	aaatggcaaa	aggcatgagt	agaacgaacg	gcaaggggat	1920
gctggagatc	cacctcctgt	gagcaaatg	ttcgatgcag	ccaatggaac	tattgtcttc	1980
tgtgcttcag	ttgctgctga	tgtgtacata	ggctgtagca	tatgtaaagt	tacacgtgtc	2040
aagctgctcg	caccgcgtag	agctaataatg	tatcatgtat	gtgggcactg	aatgccaccg	2100
ttggccatac	ccaaccgtcc	taaacgattt	tcacgtcgct	gtaacttaag	tggagataca	2160
ctttcagtat	attcagcaaa	aggaattc				2188

Mouse PrP cDNA (SEQ ID NO:7; GenBank Accession No. M13685)

aattccttca	gaactgaacc	atctcaaccg	agctgaagca	ttctgccttc	ctagtgggtac	60
cagtccaatt	taggagagcc	aagcagacta	tcagtcatca	tggcgaacct	tggctactgg	120
ctgctggccc	tctttgtgac	tatgtggact	gatgtcggcc	tctgcaaaaa	gcggccaaag	180
cctggagggt	ggaacaccgg	tggaaagccg	tatcccgggc	agggaaagccc	tggaggcaac	240
cgttaccac	ctcaggggtg	cacctggggg	cagccccacg	gtgggtggctg	gggacaaccc	300
catgggggca	gctgggggaca	acctcatggg	ggtagttggg	gtcagcccca	tggcgggtgga	360
tggggccaag	gaggggggtac	ccataatcag	tggaaacaagc	ccagcaaac	aaaaaccaac	420
ctcaagcatg	tggcaggggc	tgcggcagct	ggggcagtag	tggggggcct	tgggtggctac	480
atgctgggga	gcgcctgag	caggcccatg	atccattttg	gcaacgactg	ggaggaccgc	540
tactaccgtg	aaaacatgta	ccgctaccct	aaccaagtgt	actacaggcc	agtggatcag	600
tacagcaacc	agaacaactt	cgtgcacgac	tgcgtcaata	tcaccatcaa	gcagcacacg	660
gtcaccacca	ccaccaaggg	ggagaacttc	accgagaccg	atgtgaagat	gatggagcgc	720
gtgggtggagc	agatgtgcgt	caccagtag	cagaaggagt	cccaggccta	ttacgacggg	780
agaagatcca	gcagcaccgt	gcttttctcc	tccctcctcg	tcctcctcct	catctccttc	840
ctcatcttcc	tgatcgtagg	atgaggagg	ccttcctgct	tgttccttcg	cattctcgtg	900
gtctaggctg	ggggaggggt	tatccacctg	tagctctttc	aattgagggtg	gttctcattc	960

- 11 -

```

ttgcttctct gtgtccccc taggctaata cccctggcac tgatgggccc tgggaaatgt 1020
acagtagacc agttgtctct tgcttcaggt ccctttgatg gagtctgtca tcagccagtg 1080
ctaacaccgg gccaaataaga atataacacc aaataactgc tggctagttg gggcttttgt 1140
ttggtctagt gaataaatac tgggtgatcc cctgacttgt acccagagta caagggtgaca 1200
gtgacacatg taacttagca taggcaaagg gttctacaac caaagaagcc actgtttggg 1260
gatggcgccc tggaaaacag cctcccacct gggatagcta gagcatccac acgtggaatt 1320
ctttctttac taacaaacga tagctgattg aaggcaacaa aaaaaaaaaa atcaaattgt 1380
cctactgacg ttgaaagcaa acctttgttc attcccaggg cactagaatg atcttttagcc 1440
ttgcttggtat tgaactagga gatcttgact ctgaggagag ccagccctgt aaaaagcttg 1500
gtcctcctgt gacgggaggg atggttaagg tacaaggct agaaacttga gtttcttcat 1560
ttctgtctca caattatcaa aagctagaat tagcttctgc cctatgtttc tgtacttcta 1620
tttgaaactgg ataacagaga gacaatctaa acattctctt aggctgcaga taagagaagt 1680
aggctccatt ccaaagtggg aaagaaattc tgctagcatt gtttaaatca ggcaaaattt 1740
gttcttgaag ttgcttttta cccagcaga cataaactgc gatagcttca gcttgacagt 1800
tggattttct gtatagaata tataaaacat aacttcaagc ttatgtcttc tttttaaac 1860
atctgaagta tgggacgccc tggccgttcc atccagtact aaatgcttac cgtgtgaccc 1920
ttgggctttc agcgtgcact cagttccgta ggattccaaa gcagaccctc agctggctct 1980
tgaatctgca tgtactcac gttttctata tttgtaactt tgcattgtat ttgttttgtc 2040
atataaaaaa tttataaatg tttgctatca gactgacatt aaatagaagc tatgatg 2097

```

Sheep PrP cDNA (SEQ ID NO:8; GenBank Accession No. X79912)

```

gcagagaagt catcatggtg aaaagccaca taggcagttg gatcctgggt ctcttttgtg 60
ccatgtggag tgacgtgggc ctctgcaaga agcgaccaa acctggcgga ggatggaaca 120
ctggggggag ccgatacccg ggacagggca gtcctggagg caaccgctat ccacctcagg 180
gaggggggtg ctggggtcag ccccatggag gtggctgggg ccaacctcat ggaggtggct 240
ggggtcagcc ccattggtgt ggctggggac agccacatgg tgggtggaggc tgggggtcaag 300
gtggtagcca cagtcagtgg aacaagccca gtaagccaaa aaccaacatg aagcatgtgg 360
caggagctgc tgcagctgga gcagtggtag ggggccttgg tggctacatg ctgggaagtg 420
ccatgagcag gcctcttata cattttggca atgactatga ggaccgttac tatcgtgaaa 480
acatgtaccg ttaccccaac caagtgtact acagaccagt ggatcagtat agtaaccaga 540
acaactttgt gcatgactgt gtcaacatca cagtcaagca acacacagtc accaccacca 600
ccaaggggga gaacttcacc gaaactgaca tcaagataat ggagcgagtg gtggagcaaa 660
tgtgcatcac ccagtaccag agagaatccc aggcttatta ccaaaggggg gcaagtgtga 720
tcctcttttc tccccctcct gtgacccctc tcactctctt cctcattttt ctcatagtag 780
gataggggca accttctgtg ttt

```

Rat PrP cDNA (SEQ ID NO:9; GenBank Accession No. NM_012631)

```

atggcgaaac ttggctactg gctgctggcc ctcttttgtg ctacatgtac tgatgttggc 60
ctctgcaaaa agcggccaaa gcctggaggg tggaaacttg gtggaagccg gtaccctggg 120
caggggaagc ctggaggcaa ccgttaccca cctcagagtg gtggtacctg ggggcagccc 180
catggtggtg gctggggaca acctcatggt ggtggctggg gacaacctca tgggtggtggc 240
tggggctcag cccatggcgg gggctggagt caaggagggg gtaccataaa tcagtgggaa 300
aagcccagca agccaaaaac caacctcaag catgtggcag gggctgccgc agctggggca 360
gtagtggggg gccttgggtg ctacatgttg gggagtggca tgagcaggcc catgctccat 420
tttggaacg actgggagga ccgtactac cgagaaaaca tgtaccgtta ccctaaccaa 480
gtgtactaca ggccggtgga tcagtacagc aaccagaaca acttcgtgca cgactgtgtc 540
aatatcacca tcaagcagca tacagtcacc accaccacca agggggagaa cttcacggag 600
accgacgtga agatgatgga gcgtgtggtg gagcagatgt gcgtcaccca gtatcagaag 660
gagtcacagg cctattacga cgggagaaga tctagcgccg tgcctttctc cccccctcct 720
gtgatccctc tcactctcct cctcatcttc ctgatcgtgg gatga 765

```

As used herein, "prion disease" refers to any disease or condition in a subject, the pathogenesis of which involves a prion protein other than PrP^C of the species of the subject.

- 12 -

A prion disease will typically but not necessarily be a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy.

As used herein, "transmissible spongiform encephalopathy" and, equivalently, "(TSE)" shall mean any prion disease that is associated with spongiform encephalopathy and is communicable from one individual to another. As prion diseases can include entities other than TSE, this term refers to at least a subset of all prion diseases. At present TSE includes Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, kuru, Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker syndrome, fatal familial insomnia, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and scrapie.

As used herein, "Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease" and, equivalently, "(CJD)" refers to the TSE that naturally occurs in humans. CJD includes sporadic, genetic (familial), and infectious (i.e., variant and iatrogenic) forms. CJD is a well described entity in the medical literature, and until now has been widely believed to be a uniformly fatal neurodegenerative disease for which there is no effective form of treatment.

As used herein, "variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease" and, equivalently, "(vCJD)", also referred to in the literature as new variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD), refers to CJD attributable to the BSE prion. It can be distinguished from sporadic CJD not only by the prion involved but also by certain clinical and preclinical features. See Aguzzi A (2000) *Haematologica* 85:3-10; Hill AF et al. (1997) *Nature* 389:448-50; Bruce ME et al. (1997) *Nature* 389:498-501; Will R et al. (1996) *Lancet* 347:921-5.

As used herein, "iatrogenic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease" and, equivalently, "(iCJD)" refers to any form of CJD that is attributable to work- or treatment-related exposure to prion protein that is associated with CJD.

As used herein, "bovine spongiform encephalopathy" and, equivalently, "(BSE)" shall refer to the TSE that occurs naturally in cows and cattle.

As used herein, "scrapie" refers to the TSE that occurs naturally in sheep and goats, as well as to experimental models of scrapie. Scrapie in sheep has been recognized and described in the literature for over 300 years. For a review, see O'Rourke KI (2001) *Vet Clin North Am Food Anim Pract* 17:283-300.

As used herein, a "prion protein that is associated with a prion disease" refers to any prion protein involved in the pathogenesis of a prion disease. A prion protein that is associated with a prion disease can be a prion found in nature. Alternatively, prion protein that is associated with a prion disease can be a prion protein made de novo or modified from

- 13 -

its natural form through human activity, e.g., by in vitro synthesis, chemical synthesis, chemical derivativization, or genetic alteration. Chemical alteration includes, without limitation, altered glycosylation. In a preferred embodiment, a prion protein that is associated with a prion disease is a prion protein found in nature, e.g., PrP^{Sc}. In one embodiment, a prion protein that is associated with a prion disease is a truncated or genetically modified form of a prion protein found in nature. A genetically modified form of a prion protein found in nature includes a fusion protein involving at least a substantial portion of a prion protein as one component, a prion protein that differs from a prion protein found in nature by one or more conservative amino acid substitutions, and allelic variants of the prion protein found in nature.

Naturally occurring residues can be divided into the following classes based on common side chain properties: (1) hydrophobic: norleucine, Met, Ala, Val, Leu, Ile; (2) neutral hydrophilic: Cys, Ser, Thr; (3) acidic: Asp, Glu; (4) basic: Asn, Gln, His, Lys, Arg; (5) residues that influence chain orientation: Gly, Pro; and (6) aromatic: Trp, Tyr, Phe. Thus, for example, conservative amino acid substitutions can involve the exchange of a member from one of these classes for another member from the same class. Non-conservative amino acid substitutions can involve the exchange of a member of one of these classes for a member from another class.

A conservative amino acid substitution can involve a substitution of a native amino acid residue with another residue such that there is little or no effect on the polarity or charge of the amino acid residue at that position. Conservative amino acid substitutions also encompass non-naturally occurring amino acid residues that are typically incorporated by chemical peptide synthesis rather than by synthesis in biological systems. These include peptidomimetics, and other reversed or inverted forms of amino acid moieties.

As used herein, "prion protein:scrapie form (PrP^{Sc})" refers to any of a number of naturally occurring, species-specific, proteinase K-resistant forms of prion protein associated with prion disease. Specific examples include, but are not limited to, the following: human PrP^{Sc} having an amino acid sequence provided by SEQ ID NO:10; bovine PrP^{Sc} having an amino acid sequence provided by SEQ ID NO:11; bovine PrP^{Sc} having an amino acid sequence provided by SEQ ID NO:12; ovine PrP^{Sc} having an amino acid sequence provided by SEQ ID NO:13; ovine PrP^{Sc} having an amino acid sequence provided by SEQ ID NO:14; and murine PrP^{Sc} having an amino acid sequence provided by SEQ ID NO:15.

- 14 -

Human PrP^{Sc} (SEQ ID NO:10; GenBank Accession No. AAE81600)

```

MANLGCWMLV LFMATWSDLG LCKKRPKPGG WNTGGSRYPG QGSPGGNRYP PQGGGGWGQP 60
HGGGGWGQPHG GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGGWGQPHG QGGGTHSQWN KPSKPKTNMK HMAGAAAAGA 120
VVGGLGGYML GSAMSRPIIH FGSDYEDRYR RENMHRYPNQ VYYRPMDEYS NQNNFVHDCV 180
NITIKQHTVT TTTKGENFTE TDVKMMERVV EQMCITQYER ESQAYYQRGS SMVLFSSPPV 240
ILLISFLIFL IVG 253

```

Bovine PrP^{Sc} (SEQ ID NO:11; GenBank Accession No. AAE81601)

```

MVKSHIGSWI LVLFMWSD VGLCKKRPKP GGWNTGGSRY PGQGGSPGGR YPPQGGGGWG 60
QPHGGGGWGQ HGGGGWGQPHG GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGTHSQWN KPSKPKTNMK 120
HVAGAAAAGA VVGGLGGYML GSAMSRPLIH FGSDYEDRYR RENMHRYPNQ VYYRPMDEYS 180
NQNNFVHDCV NITVKEHTVT TTTKGENFTE TDIKMMERVV EQMCVTQYQK ESQAYYDQGA 240
SVILFSSPPV ILLISFLIFL IVG 263

```

Bovine PrP^{Sc} (SEQ ID NO:12; GenBank Accession No. CAA39368)

```

MVKSHIGSWI LVLFMWSD VGLCKKRPKP GGGWNTGGSRY YPGQGGSPGGR YPPQGGGGWG 60
GQPHGGGGWGQ PHGGGGWGQPH GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGTHSQWN NKPSKPKTNM 120
KHVAGAAAAG AVVGGLGGYM LGSAMSRPLI HFGSDYEDRY YRENMHRYPN QVYYRPMDEYS 180
SNQNNFVHDC VNITVKEHTV TTTKGENFT ETDIKMMERV VEQMCITQYQ RESQAYYQRG 240
ASVILFSSPP VILLISFLIF LIVG 264

```

Ovine PrP^{Sc} (SEQ ID NO:13; GenBank Accession No. AAE81602)

```

MVKSHIGSWI LVLFMWSD VGLCKKRPKP GGWNTGGSRY PGQGGSPGGR YPPQGGGGWG 60
QPHGGGGWGQ HGGGGWGQPHG GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGTHSQWN MKHVAGAAA 120
GAVVGGLGGY MLGSAMSRPL IHFGNDYEDR YYRENMYRYP NQVYYRPMDEYS YSNQNNFVHD 180
CVNITVKQHT VTTTTKGENF TETDIKIMER VVEQMCITQY QRESQAYYQR GASVILFSSP 240
PVILLISFLI FLIVG 255

```

Ovine PrP^{Sc} (SEQ ID NO:14; GenBank Accession No. CAA56283)

```

MVKSHIGSWI LVLFMWSD VGLCKKRPKP GGGWNTGGSRY YPGQGGSPGGR YPPQGGGGWG 60
GQPHGGGGWGQ PHGGGGWGQPH GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGGWGQPHG GGGGTHSQWN NMKVAGAAA 120
AGAVVGGLGG YMLGSAMSRP LIHFGNDYED RYYRENMYRY PNQVYYRPMDEYS QYSNQNNFVH 180
DCVNITVKQH TVTTTTKGEN FTETDIKIME RVVEQMCITQ YQRESQAYYQ RGASVILFSS 240
PPVILLISFL IFLIVG 256

```

Murine PrP^{Sc} (SEQ ID NO:15; GenBank Accession No. AAE81599)

- 15 -

MANLGWLLA	LFVTMWTDVG	LCKKRPKPGG	WNTGGSRYPG	QGSPPGNRYP	PQGGTWGQPH	60
GGGWGQPHGG	SWGQPHGGSW	GQPHGGGWGQ	GGGTHNQWNK	PSKPKTNLKH	VAGAAAAGAV	120
VGGLGGYMLG	SAMSRPMIHF	GNDWEDRYR	ENMYRYPNQV	YYRPVDQYSN	QNNFVHDCVN	180
ITIKQHTVTT	TTKGENFTET	DVKMMERVVE	QMCVTQYQKE	SQAYYDGRRS	SSTVLFSSPP	240
VILLISFLIF	LIVG					254

As used herein, “full-length PrP^{Sc}” refers to a form of PrP^{Sc} that includes all its amino acids as it occurs in nature. It is to be distinguished, for example, from a truncated form of PrP^{Sc}, described elsewhere herein. A full-length PrP^{Sc} can, however, be incorporated into a PrP^{Sc} conjugate or PrP^{Sc} fusion protein.

As used herein, a “derivative of PrP^{Sc}” refers to a chemical or genetic derivative of a naturally occurring form of PrP^{Sc}, including PrP^{Sc} with non-native glycosylation, covalent or non-covalent conjugates formed between PrP^{Sc} and another compound, PrP^{Sc} fusion proteins, and any combination thereof. A “derivative of a fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc}” refers to a chemical or genetic derivative of an N-terminally truncated form of PrP^{Sc}, including such truncated forms of PrP^{Sc}: (i) with non-native glycosylation, (ii) as part of a covalent or non-covalent conjugate formed with another compound, (iii) as part of a fusion protein, or (iv) any combination thereof. In preferred embodiments the fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc} refers to a fragment lacking one or more, up to and including all, of the octarepeats (e.g., GGGWGQPH (SEQ ID NO:16) and GGSWGQPH (SEQ ID NO:17)). See Flechsig E et al. (2000) *Neuron* 27:399-408.

A truncated form of a prion protein found in nature is identical in primary sequence to the prion protein found in nature except for the absence of one or more amino acid residues from the N-terminal end, the C-terminal end, or both the N-terminal and the C-terminal ends. Truncated forms can also include deletion mutants, in which an internal sequence is omitted without changing either the N-terminal end or the C-terminal end. In a preferred embodiment, a truncated prion protein lacks one or more, up to and including all, N-terminal octarepeats (e.g., GGGWGQPH and GGSWGQPH). See Flechsig E et al. (2000) *Neuron* 27:399-408.

As used herein, a “fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc}” shall refer to a truncated form of full-length PrP^{Sc} lacking one or more N-terminal amino acids normally present in full-length PrP^{Sc}. In a preferred embodiment, the fragment

- 16 -

lacks one or more, up to and including all, of the octarepeats (e.g., GGGWGQPH and GGSWGQPH). See Flechsig E et al. (2000) *Neuron* 27:399-408.

The methods of the instant invention employ immunostimulatory nucleic acids. In the preferred embodiment, the immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a CpG nucleic acid. The terms "nucleic acid" and "oligonucleotide" are used interchangeably to mean multiple nucleotides (i.e., molecules comprising a sugar (e.g., ribose or deoxyribose) linked to a phosphate group and to an exchangeable organic base, which is either a substituted pyrimidine (e.g., cytosine (C), thymidine (T) or uracil (U)) or a substituted purine (e.g., adenine (A) or guanine (G)). As used herein, the terms "nucleic acid" and "oligonucleotide" refer to oligoribonucleotides as well as oligodeoxyribonucleotides. The terms "nucleic acid" and "oligonucleotide" shall also include polynucleosides (i.e., a polynucleotide minus the phosphate) and any other organic base containing polymer. Nucleic acid molecules can be obtained from existing nucleic acid sources (e.g., genomic or cDNA), but are preferably synthetic (e.g., produced by nucleic acid synthesis).

The terms "nucleic acid" and "oligonucleotide" also encompass nucleic acids or oligonucleotides with substitutions or modifications, such as in the bases and/or sugars. For example, they include nucleic acids having backbone sugars that are covalently attached to low molecular weight organic groups other than a hydroxyl group at the 2' position and other than a phosphate group at the 5' position. Thus modified nucleic acids may include a 2'-O-alkylated ribose group. In addition, modified nucleic acids may include sugars such as arabinose instead of ribose. Thus the nucleic acids may be heterogeneous in backbone composition thereby containing any possible combination of polymer units linked together such as peptide-nucleic acids (which have an amino acid backbone with nucleic acid bases).

Nucleic acids also include substituted purines and pyrimidines such as C-5 propyne modified bases. Wagner RW et al. (1996) *Nat Biotechnol* 14:840-4. Purines and pyrimidines include but are not limited to adenine, cytosine, guanine, thymidine, 5-methylcytosine, 2-aminopurine, 2-amino-6-chloropurine, 2,6-diaminopurine, hypoxanthine, and other naturally and non-naturally occurring nucleobases, substituted and unsubstituted aromatic moieties. Other such modifications are well known to those of skill in the art.

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides of the instant invention can encompass various chemical modifications and substitutions, in comparison to natural RNA and DNA, involving a phosphodiester internucleoside bridge, a β -D-ribose unit and/or a natural

- 17 -

nucleoside base (adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine, uracil). Examples of chemical modifications are known to the skilled person and are described, for example, in Uhlmann E et al. (1990) *Chem Rev* 90:543; "Protocols for Oligonucleotides and Analogs" Synthesis and Properties & Synthesis and Analytical Techniques, S. Agrawal, Ed, Humana Press, Totowa, USA 1993; Crooke ST et al. (1996) *Annu Rev Pharmacol Toxicol* 36:107-129; and Hunziker J et al. (1995) *Mod Synth Methods* 7:331-417. An oligonucleotide according to the invention can have one or more modifications, wherein each modification is located at a particular phosphodiester internucleoside bridge and/or at a particular β -D-ribose unit and/or at a particular natural nucleoside base position in comparison to an oligonucleotide of the same sequence which is composed of natural DNA or RNA.

For example, the invention relates to an oligonucleotide which comprises one or more modifications and wherein each modification is independently selected from:

- a) the replacement of a phosphodiester internucleoside bridge located at the 3' and/or the 5' end of a nucleoside by a modified internucleoside bridge,
- b) the replacement of phosphodiester bridge located at the 3' and/or the 5' end of a nucleoside by a dephospho bridge,
- c) the replacement of a sugar phosphate unit from the sugar phosphate backbone by another unit,
- d) the replacement of a β -D-ribose unit by a modified sugar unit, and
- e) the replacement of a natural nucleoside base by a modified nucleoside base.

More detailed examples for the chemical modification of an oligonucleotide are as follows.

A phosphodiester internucleoside bridge located at the 3' and/or the 5' end of a nucleoside can be replaced by a modified internucleoside bridge, wherein the modified internucleoside bridge is for example selected from phosphorothioate, phosphorodithioate, NR^1R^2 -phosphoramidate, boranophosphate, α -hydroxybenzyl phosphonate, phosphate-(C_1 - C_{21})-O-alkyl ester, phosphate-[(C_6 - C_{12})aryl-(C_1 - C_{21})-O-alkyl]ester, (C_1 - C_8)alkyl-phosphonate and/or (C_6 - C_{12})-arylphosphonate bridges, (C_7 - C_{12})- α -hydroxymethyl-aryl (e.g., disclosed in WO 95/01363), wherein (C_6 - C_{12})aryl, (C_6 - C_{20})aryl and (C_6 - C_{14})aryl are optionally substituted by halogen, alkyl, alkoxy, nitro, cyano, and where R^1 and R^2 are, independently of each other, hydrogen, (C_1 - C_{18})-alkyl, (C_6 - C_{20})-aryl, (C_6 - C_{14})-aryl-(C_1 - C_8)-alkyl, preferably hydrogen, (C_1 - C_8)-alkyl, preferably (C_1 - C_4)-alkyl and/or methoxyethyl, or R^1 and R^2 form, together with

- 18 -

the nitrogen atom carrying them, a 5-6-membered heterocyclic ring which can additionally contain a further heteroatom from the group O, S and N.

The replacement of a phosphodiester bridge located at the 3' and/or the 5' end of a nucleoside by a dephospho bridge (dephospho bridges are described, for example, in Uhlmann E and Peyman A in "Methods in Molecular Biology", Vol. 20, "Protocols for Oligonucleotides and Analogs", S. Agrawal, Ed., Humana Press, Totowa 1993, Chapter 16, pp. 355ff), wherein a dephospho bridge is for example selected from the dephospho bridges formacetal, 3'-thioformacetal, methylhydroxylamine, oxime, methylenedimethyl-hydrazo, dimethylenesulfone and/or silyl groups.

A sugar phosphate unit (i.e., a β -D-ribose and phosphodiester internucleoside bridge together forming a sugar phosphate unit) from the sugar phosphate backbone (i.e., a sugar phosphate backbone is composed of sugar phosphate units) can be replaced by another unit, wherein the other unit is for example suitable to build up a "morpholino-derivative" oligomer (as described, for example, in Stirchak EP et al. (1989) *Nucleic Acids Res* 17:6129-41), that is, e.g., the replacement by a morpholino-derivative unit; or to build up a polyamide nucleic acid ("PNA"; as described for example, in Nielsen PE et al. (1994) *Bioconjug Chem* 5:3-7), that is, e.g., the replacement by a PNA backbone unit, e.g., by 2-aminoethylglycine.

A β -ribose unit or a β -D-2'-deoxyribose unit can be replaced by a modified sugar unit, wherein the modified sugar unit is for example selected from β -D-ribose, α -D-2'-deoxyribose, L-2'-deoxyribose, 2'-F-2'-deoxyribose, 2'-O-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-ribose, preferably 2'-O-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-ribose is 2'-O-methylribose, 2'-O-(C₂-C₆)alkenyl-ribose, 2'-[O-(C₁-C₆)alkyl-O-(C₁-C₆)alkyl]-ribose, 2'-NH₂-2'-deoxyribose, β -D-xylo-furanose, α -arabinofuranose, 2,4-dideoxy- β -D-erythro-hexo-pyranose, and carbocyclic (described, for example, in Froehler J (1992) *Am Chem Soc* 114:8320) and/or open-chain sugar analogs (described, for example, in Vandendriessche et al. (1993) *Tetrahedron* 49:7223) and/or bicyclosugar analogs (described, for example, in Tarkov M et al. (1993) *Helv Chim Acta* 76:481).

A natural nucleoside base can be replaced by a modified nucleoside base, wherein the modified nucleoside base is for example selected from hypoxanthine, uracil, dihydrouracil, pseudouracil, 2-thiouracil, 4-thiouracil, 5-aminouracil, 5-(C₁-C₆)-alkyluracil, 5-(C₂-C₆)-alkenyluracil, 5-(C₂-C₆)-alkynyluracil, 5-(hydroxymethyl)uracil, 5-chlorouracil, 5-fluorouracil, 5-bromouracil, 5-hydroxycytosine, 5-(C₁-C₆)-alkylcytosine, 5-(C₂-C₆)-alkenylcytosine, 5-(C₂-C₆)-alkynylcytosine, 5-chlorocytosine, 5-fluorocytosine,

- 19 -

5-bromocytosine, N²-dimethylguanosine, 2,4-diamino-purine, 8-azapurine, a substituted 7-deazapurine, preferably 7-deaza-7-substituted and/or 7-deaza-8-substituted purine or other modifications of a natural nucleoside bases. This list is meant to be exemplary and is not to be interpreted to be limiting.

The oligonucleotides of the present invention are nucleic acids that contain specific sequences found to elicit an immune response. These specific sequences that elicit an immune response are referred to as "immunostimulatory motifs", and the oligonucleotides that contain immunostimulatory motifs are referred to as "immunostimulatory nucleic acid molecules" and, equivalently, "immunostimulatory nucleic acids" or "immunostimulatory oligonucleotides". The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides of the invention thus include at least one immunostimulatory motif.

In one embodiment of the invention the immunostimulatory oligonucleotides include immunostimulatory motifs which are "CpG dinucleotides". A CpG dinucleotide can be methylated or unmethylated. An immunostimulatory nucleic acid containing at least one unmethylated CpG dinucleotide is a nucleic acid molecule which contains an unmethylated cytosine-guanine dinucleotide sequence (i.e., an unmethylated 5' cytosine followed by 3' guanosine and linked by a phosphate bond) and which activates the immune system; such an immunostimulatory nucleic acid is a CpG nucleic acid. CpG nucleic acids have been described in a number of issued patents, published patent applications, and other publications, including U.S. Patent Nos. 6,194,388; 6,207,646; 6,214,806; 6,218,371; 6,239,116; and 6,339,068.

An immunostimulatory nucleic acid containing at least one methylated CpG dinucleotide is a nucleic acid which contains a methylated cytosine-guanine dinucleotide sequence (i.e., a methylated 5' cytosine followed by a 3' guanosine and linked by a phosphate bond) and which activates the immune system. In other embodiments the immunostimulatory oligonucleotides are free of CpG dinucleotides. These oligonucleotides which are free of CpG dinucleotides are referred to as non-CpG oligonucleotides, and they have non-CpG immunostimulatory motifs. The invention, therefore, also encompasses nucleic acids with other types of immunostimulatory motifs, which can be methylated or unmethylated. The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides of the invention, further, can include any combination of methylated and unmethylated CpG and non-CpG

- 20 -

immunostimulatory motifs. In some embodiments the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is not an antisense oligonucleotide.

As used herein, a "Toll-like receptor (TLR) that signals in response to the CpG nucleic acid" refers to any TLR that engages or initiates an intracellular signaling pathway associated with the development of an immune response, as a result of contacting the TLR with CpG nucleic acid. The pathway typically involves the adaptor protein MyD88 and subsequent downstream molecules including TRAF, IRAK, Jun, Erk, p38 MAPK, and NF- κ B. The TLRs are a family of at least ten highly conserved receptors that share as a common feature a cytoplasmic Toll homology IL-1 receptor (TIR) domain believed to be involved in such signaling. TLR9 is reported to be the natural receptor for CpG nucleic acid.

As to CpG nucleic acids, it has recently been described that there are different classes of CpG nucleic acids. One class is potent for activating B cells but is relatively weak in inducing IFN- α and NK cell activation; this class has been termed the B class. The B class CpG nucleic acids typically are fully stabilized and include an unmethylated CpG dinucleotide within certain preferred base contexts. See, e.g., U.S. Patent Nos. 6,194,388; 6,207,646; 6,214,806; 6,218,371; 6,239,116; and 6,339,068. Another class is potent for inducing IFN- α and NK cell activation but is relatively weak at stimulating B cells; this class has been termed the A class. The A class CpG nucleic acids typically have stabilized poly-G sequences at 5' and 3' ends and a palindromic phosphodiester CpG dinucleotide-containing sequence of at least 6 nucleotides. See, for example, published patent application PCT/US00/26527 (WO 01/22990). Yet another class of CpG nucleic acids activates B cells and NK cells and induces IFN- α ; this class has been termed the C class. The C class CpG nucleic acids typically are fully stabilized, include a B class-type sequence and a GC-rich palindrome or near-palindrome. This class has been described in published patent application PCT/US02/26468 (WO 03/015711), the entire content of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Immunostimulatory oligonucleotides are effective in vertebrates. Different immunostimulatory oligonucleotides can cause optimal immune stimulation depending on the type of subject and the sequence of the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide. Many vertebrates have been found according to the invention to be responsive to the same class of immunostimulatory oligonucleotides, sometimes referred to as human specific immunostimulatory oligonucleotides. Rodents, however, respond to different nucleic acids.

- 21 -

Immunostimulatory oligonucleotides causing optimal stimulation in humans may not generally cause optimal stimulation in a mouse and vice versa. An immunostimulatory oligonucleotide causing optimal stimulation in humans often does, however, cause optimal stimulation in other animals such as cow, horses, sheep, etc. For example, within Class B CpG ODN, preferred immunostimulatory sequences have been identified for use in mice (ODN 1826, 5'- TCCATGACGTTTCCTGACGTT -3', SEQ ID NO:18) and for use in humans (ODN 2006, 5'- TCGTCGTTTTGTCGTTTTGTCGTT -3', SEQ ID NO:19). One of skill in the art can identify the optimal immunostimulatory nucleic acid sequences useful for a particular species of interest using routine assays described herein and/or known in the art, using the guidance supplied herein.

As used herein, the term "treat" as used in reference to a disease or condition shall mean to intervene in such disease or condition so as to prevent or slow the development of, slow the progression of, halt the progression of, or eliminate the disease or condition. Thus the phrase "to treat the prion disease" as used herein means to prevent or slow the development of, slow the progression of, halt the progression of, or eliminate the prion disease.

As used herein, a "subject" refers to a human or non-human vertebrate. Preferred non-human vertebrates include feed livestock susceptible to TSE, including cows and cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs. Non-human subjects also specifically include non-human primates as well as rodents. Non-human subjects also include, without limitation, chickens, horses, dogs, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, mink, and rabbits.

As used herein, a "subject having a prion disease" is a subject known or diagnosed to have a prion disease as disclosed herein. Generally a subject having a prion disease will have some objective manifestation of the prion disease, such as a sign, symptom, or result of a suitable diagnostic test that indicates the presence of a prion disease. In the transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, such objective manifestations can include dementia, ataxia, myoclonus, tremor, presence of protease-resistant prion protein in brain extract, and typical or characteristic abnormalities on brain CT, brain MRI, and/or EEG. This list is not meant to be limiting in any way, and those of skill in the art will recognize what criteria are suitable for making a diagnosis of prion disease in a given species in question. A subject having a prion disease shall also include any subject having a test result which specifically indicates the presence in that subject of any amount of prion protein that is associated with a prion

- 22 -

disease, since it is believed that prion protein that is associated with a prion disease is not present in a subject without a prion disease.

A subject having a prion disease can but need not necessarily have an identifiable risk factor for having a prion disease. An identifiable risk factor for having a prion disease can include a family history of prion disease, a history of consuming known or suspected prion-diseased tissue, or a history of exposure to a prion protein that is associated with a prion disease or to a product derived from a known or suspected prion-diseased tissue (e.g., through administration of pituitary extract).

As used herein, a "subject at risk of developing a prion disease" is a subject with a known or suspected exposure to prion-diseased tissue, a known or suspected exposure to prion protein that is associated with a prion disease, or a known or suspected predisposition to develop a prion disease (e.g., family history of prion disease). In one embodiment the subject at risk of developing a prion disease is a subject residing in or traveling to an area in which TSE is endemic. In one embodiment the subject at risk of developing a prion disease is a subject residing in or traveling to an area in which food or water contains or is likely to contain prion protein that is associated with prion disease. In one embodiment, a subject at risk of developing a prion-disease is a subject with a known or suspected iatrogenic exposure to prion-diseased tissue, e.g., neurosurgeons, neuropathologists, pathologists, nurses, morticians, histology technicians and laboratory workers at special risk of contracting iCJD. In one embodiment, a subject at risk of developing a prion disease is a subject with a known or suspected iatrogenic exposure to prion-diseased tissue through receiving a tissue or organ allograft from a subject having a prion disease. Such tissues can include, without limitation, corneas and dural grafts.

As used herein, an "effective amount" of a substance generally refers to that amount of the substance that is sufficient to bring about a desired effect. With reference to CpG nucleic acid, an "effective amount to induce an immune response to the prion protein" shall refer to that amount of CpG nucleic acid that is sufficient to induce an immune response to a particular prion protein. The immune response can occur in vitro, in vivo, ex vivo, and any combination thereof. An immune response to a prion protein can be measured using any suitable means to determine that an immune response occurs in association with exposure of an immune cell to the prion protein. The immune response can be antigen-specific, including any of the following: production of prion protein-specific antibody, proliferation of prion

- 23 -

protein-specific lymphocytes, and cell-mediated immunity against cells expressing prion protein. The immune response can alternatively or additionally be antigen-nonspecific, including any of the following: induction of a Toll-like receptor signaling pathway, inflammation, and production of a cytokine and/or chemokine. Because prion proteins are generally believed not to evoke an immune response, any prion protein-specific immune response which occurs in association with exposure of an immune cell to a prion protein will generally indicate an immune response to the prion protein.

Also with reference to CpG nucleic acid, an "effective amount to treat the prion disease" shall refer to that amount of CpG nucleic acid that is sufficient to treat a particular prion disease. In one embodiment, an effective amount to treat the prion disease is that amount that is sufficient to slow the development of prion disease, compared to the rate of development of prion disease that would occur without CpG administration according to the instant invention. In one embodiment, an effective amount to treat the prion disease is that amount that is sufficient to prevent the development of prion disease, compared to development of prion disease that would occur without CpG administration according to the instant invention. In one embodiment an effective amount to treat the prion disease is that amount that is sufficient to slow the progression of prion disease, compared to the rate of progression of prion disease that would occur without CpG administration according to the instant invention. In one embodiment an effective amount to treat the prion disease is that amount that is sufficient to stop the progression of prion disease, compared to the progression of prion disease that would occur without CpG administration according to the instant invention. In one embodiment an effective amount to treat the prion disease is that amount that is sufficient to resolve prion disease, compared to the prion disease that would occur without CpG administration according to the instant invention.

Combined with the teachings provided herein, by choosing among the various active compounds and weighing factors such as potency, relative bioavailability, patient body weight, severity of adverse side-effects and preferred mode of administration, an effective prophylactic or therapeutic treatment regimen can be planned which does not cause substantial toxicity and yet is entirely effective to treat the particular subject. The effective amount for any particular application can vary depending on such factors as the disease or condition being treated, the particular immunostimulatory oligonucleotide being administered, the antigen, the size of the subject, or the severity of the disease or condition.

- 24 -

One of ordinary skill in the art can empirically determine the effective amount of a particular immunostimulatory oligonucleotide and/or other therapeutic agent without necessitating undue experimentation.

Subject doses of the immunostimulatory oligonucleotides for mucosal or local delivery typically range from about 0.1 μ g to 10 mg per administration, which depending on the application could be given daily, weekly, or monthly and any other amount of time therebetween. More typically doses range from about 10 μ g to 5 mg per administration, and most typically from about 100 μ g to 1 mg, with repeated administrations being spaced days or weeks apart. Subject doses of immunostimulatory oligonucleotides for parenteral delivery for the purpose of inducing an antigen-specific immune response, wherein the compounds are delivered with an antigen but not another therapeutic agent are typically 5 to 10,000 times higher than the effective mucosal dose for vaccine adjuvant or immune stimulant applications, and more typically 10 to 1,000 times higher, and most typically 20 to 100 times higher. Doses of the immunostimulatory oligonucleotides for parenteral delivery for the purpose of inducing an innate immune response or for inducing an antigen-specific immune response when the immunostimulatory nucleic acids are administered in combination with other therapeutic agents or in specialized delivery vehicles typically range from about 0.1 μ g to 10 mg per administration, which depending on the application could be given daily, weekly, or monthly and any other amount of time therebetween. More typically parenteral doses for these purposes range from about 10 μ g to 5 mg per administration, and most typically from about 100 μ g to 1 mg, with repeated administrations being spaced days or weeks apart. In some embodiments, however, parenteral doses for these purposes may be used in a range of 5 to 10,000 times higher than the typical doses described above.

For any immunostimulatory oligonucleotide the therapeutically effective amount can be initially determined from animal models. A therapeutically effective dose can also be determined from human data for CpG oligonucleotides which have been tested in humans (human clinical trials have been initiated) and for compounds which are known to exhibit similar pharmacological activities, such as other mucosal adjuvants, e.g., LT and other antigens for vaccination purposes, for mucosal or local administration. Higher doses are required for parenteral administration. The applied dose can be adjusted based on the relative bioavailability and potency of the administered immunostimulatory oligonucleotide. Adjusting the dose to achieve maximal efficacy based on the methods described herein and

- 25 -

other methods as are well-known in the art is well within the capabilities of the ordinarily skilled artisan.

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide can be administered alone or with antigen or other therapeutic agent. In this context, "antigen" refers to any biological molecule capable of eliciting specific immunity. Antigens specifically include peptides (oligopeptides, polypeptides, proteins, and glycosylated derivatives thereof), and polysaccharides. Peptide antigen can be administered preformed or as a polynucleotide encoding the peptide. Also in this context, "other therapeutic agent" includes any suitable composition useful in treating prion disease, including an antibody capable of binding a prion protein. When the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered with antigen or other therapeutic agent, the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide can be administered before, concurrently with, or following administration of the antigen or other therapeutic agent. The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide and the antigen or other therapeutic agent can be formulated together or separately when the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered concurrently with the antigen or other therapeutic agent. When the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered before or following administration of antigen or other therapeutic agent, the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide and the antigen or other therapeutic agent can be administered by the same route of administration or by different routes of administration. In addition, when the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide is administered before or following administration of antigen or other therapeutic agent, the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide and the antigen or other therapeutic agent can be administered to the same site or to different sites.

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides may be directly administered to the subject or may be administered in conjunction with a nucleic acid delivery complex. A nucleic acid delivery complex shall mean a nucleic acid molecule associated with (e.g., ionically or covalently bound to; or encapsulated within) a targeting means (e.g., a molecule that results in higher affinity binding to target cell (e.g., B cell surfaces and/or increased cellular uptake by target cells). Examples of nucleic acid delivery complexes include nucleic acids associated with a sterol (e.g., cholesterol), a lipid (e.g., a cationic lipid, virosome or liposome), or a target cell specific binding agent (e.g., a ligand recognized by target cell specific receptor). Preferred complexes may be sufficiently stable *in vivo* to prevent significant uncoupling prior to internalization by the target cell. However, the complex can

- 26 -

be cleavable under appropriate conditions within the cell so that the nucleic acid is released in a functional form.

Delivery vehicles or delivery devices for delivering antigen and nucleic acids to surfaces have been described. The immunostimulatory oligonucleotide and/or the antigen and/or other therapeutics may be administered alone (e.g., in saline or buffer) or using any delivery vehicles known in the art. For instance the following delivery vehicles have been described: cochleates (Gould-Fogerite et al., 1994, 1996); emulsomes (Vancott et al., 1998, Lowell et al., 1997); ISCOMs (Mowat et al., 1993, Carlsson et al., 1991, Hu et al., 1998, Morein et al., 1999); liposomes (Childers et al., 1999, Michalek et al., 1989, 1992, de Haan 1995a, 1995b); live bacterial vectors (e.g., *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli*, bacillus Calmette-Guérin, *Shigella*, *Lactobacillus*) (Hone et al., 1996, Pouwels et al., 1998, Chatfield et al., 1993, Stover et al., 1991, Nugent et al., 1998); live viral vectors (e.g., Vaccinia, adenovirus, Herpes Simplex) (Gallichan et al., 1993, 1995, Moss et al., 1996, Nugent et al., 1998, Flexner et al., 1988, Morrow et al., 1999); microspheres (Gupta et al., 1998, Jones et al., 1996, Maloy et al., 1994, Moore et al., 1995, O'Hagan et al., 1994, Eldridge et al., 1989); nucleic acid vaccines (Fynan et al., 1993, Kuklin et al., 1997, Sasaki et al., 1998, Okada et al., 1997, Ishii et al., 1997); polymers (e.g., carboxymethylcellulose, chitosan) (Hamajima et al., 1998, Jabbal-Gill et al., 1998); polymer rings (Wyatt et al., 1998); proteosomes (Vancott et al., 1998, Lowell et al., 1988, 1996, 1997); sodium fluoride (Hashi et al., 1998); transgenic plants (Tacket et al., 1998, Mason et al., 1998, Haq et al., 1995); virosomes (Gluck et al., 1992, Mengiardi et al., 1995, Cryz et al., 1998); virus-like particles (Jiang et al., 1999, Leibl et al., 1998).

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides may be administered by any means known to the skilled artisan. Routes of administration include but are not limited to oral, mucosal, parenteral, intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, intranasal, intratracheal, sublingual, subcutaneous, intradermal, inhalation, ocular, vaginal, and rectal.

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides are administered in pharmaceutically acceptable solutions, which may routinely contain pharmaceutically acceptable concentrations of salt, buffering agents, preservatives, compatible carriers, adjuvants, and optionally other therapeutic ingredients.

Suitable liquid or solid pharmaceutical preparation forms are, for example, aqueous or saline solutions for inhalation, microencapsulated, encochleated, coated onto microscopic

- 27 -

gold particles, contained in liposomes, nebulized, aerosols, pellets for implantation into the skin, or dried onto a sharp object to be scratched into the skin. The pharmaceutical compositions also include granules, powders, tablets, coated tablets, (micro)capsules, suppositories, syrups, emulsions, suspensions, creams, drops or preparations with protracted release of active compounds, in whose preparation excipients and additives and/or auxiliaries such as disintegrants, binders, coating agents, swelling agents, lubricants, flavorings, sweeteners or solubilizers are customarily used as described above. The pharmaceutical compositions are suitable for use in a variety of drug delivery systems. For a brief review of methods for drug delivery, see Langer R (1990) *Science* 249:1527-33, which is incorporated herein by reference.

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides and optionally other therapeutics and/or antigens may be administered *per se* (neat) or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt. When used in medicine the salts should be pharmaceutically acceptable, but non-pharmaceutically acceptable salts may conveniently be used to prepare pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof. Such salts include, but are not limited to, those prepared from the following acids: hydrochloric, hydrobromic, sulphuric, nitric, phosphoric, maleic, acetic, salicylic, p-toluene sulphonic, tartaric, citric, methane sulphonic, formic, malonic, succinic, naphthalene-2-sulphonic, and benzene sulphonic. Also, such salts can be prepared as alkaline metal or alkaline earth salts, such as sodium, potassium or calcium salts of the carboxylic acid group.

Suitable buffering agents include: acetic acid and a salt (1-2% w/v); citric acid and a salt (1-3% w/v); boric acid and a salt (0.5-2.5% w/v); and phosphoric acid and a salt (0.8-2% w/v). Suitable preservatives include benzalkonium chloride (0.003-0.03% w/v); chlorobutanol (0.3-0.9% w/v); parabens (0.01-0.25% w/v) and thimerosal (0.004-0.02% w/v).

For oral administration, the immunostimulatory oligonucleotides can be formulated readily by combining the active compound(s) with pharmaceutically acceptable carriers well known in the art. Such carriers enable the compounds of the invention to be formulated as tablets, pills, dragees, capsules, liquids, gels, syrups, slurries, suspensions and the like, for oral ingestion by a subject to be treated. Pharmaceutical preparations for oral use can be obtained as solid excipient, optionally grinding a resulting mixture, and processing the mixture of granules, after adding suitable auxiliaries, if desired, to obtain tablets or dragee cores. Suitable excipients are, in particular, fillers such as sugars, including lactose, sucrose,

- 28 -

mannitol, or sorbitol; cellulose preparations such as, for example, maize starch, wheat starch, rice starch, potato starch, gelatin, gum tragacanth, methyl cellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl-cellulose, sodium carboxymethylcellulose, and/or polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). If desired, disintegrating agents may be added, such as the cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone, agar, or alginic acid or a salt thereof such as sodium alginate. Optionally the oral formulations may also be formulated in saline or buffers for neutralizing internal acid conditions or may be administered without any carriers.

Dragee cores are provided with suitable coatings. For this purpose, concentrated sugar solutions may be used, which may optionally contain gum arabic, talc, polyvinyl pyrrolidone, carbopol gel, polyethylene glycol, and/or titanium dioxide, lacquer solutions, and suitable organic solvents or solvent mixtures. Dyestuffs or pigments may be added to the tablets or dragee coatings for identification or to characterize different combinations of active compound doses.

Pharmaceutical preparations which can be used orally include push-fit capsules made of gelatin, as well as soft, sealed capsules made of gelatin and a plasticizer, such as glycerol or sorbitol. The push-fit capsules can contain the active ingredients in admixture with filler such as lactose, binders such as starches, and/or lubricants such as talc or magnesium stearate and, optionally, stabilizers. In soft capsules, the active compounds may be dissolved or suspended in suitable liquids, such as fatty oils, liquid paraffin, or liquid polyethylene glycols. In addition, stabilizers may be added. Microspheres formulated for oral administration may also be used. Such microspheres have been well defined in the art. All formulations for oral administration should be in dosages suitable for such administration.

For buccal administration, the compositions may take the form of tablets or lozenges formulated in conventional manner.

For administration by inhalation, the compounds for use according to the present invention may be conveniently delivered in the form of an aerosol spray presentation from pressurized packs or a nebulizer, with the use of a suitable propellant, e.g., dichlorodifluoromethane, trichlorofluoromethane, dichlorotetrafluoroethane, carbon dioxide or other suitable gas. In the case of a pressurized aerosol the dosage unit may be determined by providing a valve to deliver a metered amount. Capsules and cartridges of e.g., gelatin for use in an inhaler or insufflator may be formulated containing a powder mix of the compound and a suitable powder base such as lactose or starch.

- 29 -

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides, when it is desirable to deliver them systemically, may be formulated for parenteral administration by injection, e.g., by bolus injection or continuous infusion. Formulations for injection may be presented in unit dosage form, e.g., in ampoules or in multi-dose containers, with an added preservative. The compositions may take such forms as suspensions, solutions or emulsions in oily or aqueous vehicles, and may contain formulatory agents such as suspending, stabilizing and/or dispersing agents.

Pharmaceutical formulations for parenteral administration include aqueous solutions of the active compounds in water-soluble form. Additionally, suspensions of the active compounds may be prepared as appropriate oily injection suspensions. Suitable lipophilic solvents or vehicles include fatty oils such as sesame oil, or synthetic fatty acid esters, such as ethyl oleate or triglycerides, or liposomes. Aqueous injection suspensions may contain substances which increase the viscosity of the suspension, such as sodium carboxymethyl cellulose, sorbitol, or dextran. Optionally, the suspension may also contain suitable stabilizers or agents which increase the solubility of the compounds to allow for the preparation of highly concentrated solutions.

Alternatively, the active compounds may be in powder form for constitution with a suitable vehicle, e.g., sterile pyrogen-free water, before use.

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides may also be formulated in rectal or vaginal compositions such as suppositories or retention enemas, e.g., containing conventional suppository bases such as cocoa butter or other glycerides.

In addition to the formulations described previously, the immunostimulatory oligonucleotides may also be formulated as a depot preparation. Such long acting formulations may be formulated with suitable polymeric or hydrophobic materials (for example as an emulsion in an acceptable oil) or ion exchange resins, or as sparingly soluble derivatives, for example, as a sparingly soluble salt.

The pharmaceutical compositions also may comprise suitable solid or gel phase carriers or excipients. Examples of such carriers or excipients include but are not limited to calcium carbonate, calcium phosphate, various sugars, starches, cellulose derivatives, gelatin, and polymers such as polyethylene glycols.

The term "pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier" means one or more compatible solid or liquid filler, diluents or encapsulating substances which are suitable for administration to a

- 30 -

human or other vertebrate animal. The term "carrier" denotes an organic or inorganic ingredient, natural or synthetic, with which the active ingredient is combined to facilitate the application. The components of the pharmaceutical compositions also are capable of being commingled with the compounds of the present invention, and with each other, in a manner such that there is no interaction which would substantially impair the desired pharmaceutical efficiency.

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides useful in the invention may be delivered in mixtures with additional adjuvant(s), other therapeutics, or antigen(s). A mixture may consist of several adjuvants in addition to the immunostimulatory oligonucleotide or several antigens or other therapeutics.

The particular mode selected will depend, of course, upon the particular adjuvants or antigen selected, the particular condition being treated and the dosage required for therapeutic efficacy. The methods of this invention, generally speaking, may be practiced using any mode of administration that is medically acceptable, meaning any mode that produces effective levels of an immune response without causing clinically unacceptable adverse effects. Preferred modes of administration are discussed above.

The immunostimulatory oligonucleotides may conveniently be presented in unit dosage form and may be prepared by any of the methods well known in the art of pharmacy. All methods include the step of bringing the immunostimulatory oligonucleotides into association with a carrier which constitutes one or more accessory ingredients. In general, the compositions are prepared by uniformly and intimately bringing the compounds into association with a liquid carrier, a finely divided solid carrier, or both, and then, if necessary, shaping the product. Liquid dose units are vials or ampoules. Solid dose units are tablets, capsules and suppositories. For treatment of a patient, depending on activity of the compound, manner of administration, purpose of the immunization (i.e., prophylactic or therapeutic), nature and severity of the disorder, age and body weight of the patient, different doses may be necessary. The administration of a given dose can be carried out both by single administration in the form of an individual dose unit or else several smaller dose units. Multiple administration of doses at specific intervals of weeks or months apart is usual for boosting the antigen-specific responses.

Other delivery systems can include time-release, delayed release or sustained release delivery systems. Such systems can avoid repeated administrations of the compounds,

- 31 -

increasing convenience to the subject and the physician. Many types of release delivery systems are available and known to those of ordinary skill in the art. They include polymer base systems such as poly(lactide-glycolide), copolyoxalates, polycaprolactones, polyesteramides, polyorthoesters, polyhydroxybutyric acid, and polyanhydrides. Microcapsules of the foregoing polymers containing drugs are described in, for example, U.S. Patent 5,075,109. Delivery systems also include non-polymer systems that are: lipids including sterols such as cholesterol, cholesterol esters and fatty acids or neutral fats such as mono-di-and tri-glycerides; hydrogel release systems; sylastic systems; peptide based systems; wax coatings; compressed tablets using conventional binders and excipients; partially fused implants; and the like. Specific examples include, but are not limited to: (a) erosional systems in which an agent of the invention is contained in a form within a matrix such as those described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,452,775, 4,675,189, and 5,736,152, and (b) diffusional systems in which an active component permeates at a controlled rate from a polymer such as described in U.S. Patent Nos. 3,854,480, 5,133,974 and 5,407,686. In addition, pump-based hardware delivery systems can be used, some of which are adapted for implantation.

Examples

Example 1. CpG-ODN Protects Mice from Scrapie Prion.

Groups of 8 mice each were inoculated intraperitoneally with 100 μ l of 10% brain homogenates from mice terminally ill with RML scrapie prion strain corresponding to an infectious challenge of approximately 10^4 LD₅₀. The mice received 0.15 pmol (30 μ l of 5 nM solution) CpG-ODN (oligonucleotide 1826, 5'- TCCATGACGTTCTGACGTT -3', SEQ ID NO:18), which has been shown to be a strong inducer of innate immunity and to confer sterile immunity against certain infectious diseases. Sparwasser T et al. (2000) *Eur J Immunol* 30:3591-7. CpG-ODN was administered intraperitoneally at the time of inoculation (0h) with scrapie prions as well as 4 times at intervals of 24h (4 x q 24h); a second group received 0.15 pmol (30 μ l of 5 nM solution) CpG-ODN 7h after infection (7h) and 4 times at intervals of 24h (4 x q 24h); a third group received CpG-ODN at 7h after infection and subsequently 20 times at intervals of 24h (20 x q 24h). Controls matched for age and sex were given saline instead of CpG-ODN at the identical time intervals. Additional control experiments were also performed in uninfected mice using saline and brain homogenates of

- 32 -

uninfected mice. All animals were observed and scored daily for clinical signs of disease. Scrapie in mice is characterized by ataxia of gait, tremor, difficulty righting from a supine position, and tail rigidity. Occurrence of two of these four symptoms was used as the end point criterion for establishing a clinical diagnosis of scrapie. Western blots of brain homogenates were performed to confirm the diagnosis. All results were analyzed using the Student's t test (Table 1).

Table 1. Mean incubation time in C57BL/6 mice after inoculation with scrapie strain RML and treatment with CpG-ODN.

Group	Inoculation	Treatment	Regimen	Time to Terminal Disease (d) \pm SD	Attack Rate
1	RML	CpG 1826	0h and 4 x q 24h	253 \pm 4	8/8
2	RML	CpG 1826	7h and 4 x q 24h	250 \pm 6	8/8
3	RML	CpG 1826	7h and 20 x q 24h	> 330 no disease	0/8
4	RML	Saline	0h and 4 x q 24h	183 \pm 7	8/8
5	RML	Saline	7h and 4 x q 24h	181 \pm 3	8/8
6	RML	Saline	7h and 20 x q 24h	181 \pm 3	8/8
7	Saline	CpG 1826	0h and 4 x q 24h	No disease	0/8
8	Saline	CpG 1826	7h and 4 x q 24h	No disease	0/8
9	Saline	CpG 1826	7h and 20 x q 24h	No disease	0/8
10	Brain homogenate of uninfected mouse	CpG 1826	0h and 4 x q 24h	No disease	0/8
11	Brain homogenate of uninfected mouse	CpG 1826	7h and 4 x q 24h	No disease	0/8
12	Brain homogenate of uninfected mouse	CpG 1826	7h and 20 x q 24h	No disease	0/8

Mice infected with the RML strain which received CpG-ODN at the time of inoculation and 7h post-infection as well as 4 times at intervals of 24h showed a dramatic prolongation of survival time compared to control mice with an increase in survival time of 38% in both cases. These differences were highly significant ($p < 0.0001$). The application of CpG-ODN 7h post-inoculation and 20 times at 24h intervals led to disease-free intervals of more than 330 days. All control groups which were not inoculated with the RML strain remained disease-free, and no harmful effect of CpG-ODN application was observed.

- 33 -

These results showed that the application of CpG-ODN at the time of infection and 7h after infection led to a dramatic prolongation of survival time. This effect can be amplified when CpG-ODN are given for a longer period of time. The application of CpG-ODN for 20 times at 24h intervals results in a disease-free interval of >330 days, which indicates the great potential of CpG-ODN for post-exposure prophylaxis of people with exposure to infection. The mechanism of disease prevention remains to be determined, but it seems that the most likely explanation for this effect is a stimulation of TLR-expressing cells of the innate immune system, e.g., macrophages, monocytes, and especially dendritic cells. Sparwasser T et al. (2000) *Eur J Immunol* 30:3591-7. CpG-ODN has been known to induce resistance against other infectious diseases. Zimmermann S et al. (1998) *J Immunol* 160:3627-30. The induction of extreme prolongation of the incubation time or even resistance to prion disease was a surprising finding in the context of a completely different infectious agent.

The findings presented here show that administration of CpG-ODN prolongs the incubation time by 38% and may have the potential to prevent infection after repeated administration, even when high doses of infectivity are administered intraperitoneally. It may therefore be possible to prevent disease after inadvertent iatrogenic exposure with much lower infectious doses administered peripherally.

Example 2. Effect of Timing Between Exposure to Prion and Administration of CpG-ODN.

Mice are injected with RML scrapie prion or control and treated with CpG-ODN or control essentially as in Example 1, except that the interval between injection with RML scrapie prion or control and administration of CpG-ODN or control is varied. In some groups administration of CpG-ODN is delayed as much as a month following injection with RML scrapie prion or control. In some groups administration of CpG-ODN precedes injection with RML scrapie prion or control. In some groups the number and schedule of repeated administrations of CpG-ODN is varied from Example 1. Results, measured as in Example 1, show that CpG-ODN is effective even when administered more than 7h after injection with RML scrapie prion.

Example 3. Mice Protected from Scrapie Prion by CpG-ODN Develop an Immune Response to Prion.

- 34 -

Mice are injected with RML scrapie prion or control and treated with CpG-ODN or control essentially as in Example 1 or Example 2. At various time points following injection with RML scrapie prion or control and treatment with CpG-ODN or control, tissue or blood samples are obtained and analyzed for prion-specific and prion-nonspecific immune response. Presence of an immune response is determined by suitable method or measurement including, without limitation, antibody titer, enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), flow cytometry, cell proliferation assay, cytotoxicity assay, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), Western immunoblot, Northern blot, and Southern blot. General methods for these types of measurements are standard and are suitably adapted to the specific antigen or stimulus being assayed. For example, ELISA is used to measure production of various secreted products, including antibodies, cytokines and chemokines. Cytokines and chemokines in this example include interleukin (IL)-4, IL-10, IL-6, IL-12, IL-18, interferon (IFN)- α , IFN- β , IFN- γ , tumor necrosis factor (TNF), and IP-10. Flow cytometry is used to measure cell surface and intracellular proteins, including markers associated with immune cell activation. Markers associated with immune cell activation can vary with cell type but include cluster of differentiation (CD) markers such as CD86; major histocompatibility complex (MHC), inducible cytokine receptors, and certain costimulatory molecules. Results show that CpG-ODN induces an immune response to prion protein.

Example 4. Selection of CpG-ODN.

Mice are injected with RML scrapie prion or control and treated with CpG-ODN or control essentially as in Example 1 or Example 2. Various CpG-ODN are compared against ODN 1826 for their effectiveness. Results, measured as in Example 1, show that protection is related to the use of species-optimized CpG-ODN.

Example 5. Use of CpG-ODN in Alzheimer's Disease Model.

Mice genetically susceptible to developing Alzheimer's-like disease are administered CpG nucleic acid alone or CpG nucleic acid plus antigen (e.g., amyloid precursor protein or A β), either prior to or following onset of Alzheimer's-like disease. Similar mice are administered appropriate control treatment. Animals are monitored for behavioral and histologic evidence of Alzheimer's-like disease.

The foregoing written specification is considered to be sufficient to enable one skilled in the art to practice the invention. The present invention is not to be limited in scope by examples provided, since the examples are intended as a single illustration of one aspect of the invention and other functionally equivalent embodiments are within the scope of the invention. Various modifications of the invention in addition to those shown and described herein will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the foregoing description and fall within the scope of the appended claims. The advantages and objects of the invention are not necessarily encompassed by each embodiment of the invention.

All references, patents and patent publications that are recited in this application are incorporated in their entirety herein by reference.

We claim:

- 36 -

Claims

1. A method for treating a prion disease in a subject, comprising:
administering to a subject having or at risk of developing a prion disease a CpG nucleic acid in an effective amount to treat the prion disease.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the administering follows exposure of the subject to a prion protein that is associated with a prion disease.
3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the prion disease is a transmissible spongiform encephalopathy (TSE).
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the prion disease is scrapie.
5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the prion disease is bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).
6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the prion disease is variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD).
7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the prion disease is iatrogenic Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (iCJD).
8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the subject is a human.
9. A method for inducing an immune response to a prion protein, comprising:
contacting an antigen-presenting cell (APC) with a prion protein; and
contacting the APC with a CpG nucleic acid in an effective amount to induce an immune response to the prion protein.
10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the immune response is in vivo.

- 37 -

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the APC is selected from the group consisting of: a B cell, a dendritic cell, a macrophage, and a monocyte.
12. The method according to claim 9, wherein the APC is a dendritic cell.
13. The method according to claim 9, wherein the APC expresses a Toll-like receptor (TLR) that signals in response to the CpG nucleic acid.
14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the TLR is TLR9.
15. The method according to claim 9, wherein the prion protein is prion protein:scrapie form (PrP^{Sc}).
16. The method according to claim 9, wherein the prion protein is a fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc}.
17. The method according to claim 9, wherein the prion protein is a derivative of PrP^{Sc} or a derivative of a fragment of PrP^{Sc} lacking at least the amino terminus of full-length PrP^{Sc}.
18. The method according to claim 9, wherein the CpG nucleic acid is a Class B CpG nucleic acid.
19. The method according to claim 9, wherein the CpG nucleic acid is a Class A CpG nucleic acid.
20. The method according to claim 9, wherein the CpG nucleic acid is a Class C CpG nucleic acid.
21. The method according to claim 9, wherein the CpG nucleic acid is optimized for use in a species of the subject.

SEQUENCE LISTING

<110> Coley Pharmaceutical GmbH

<120> USE OF CpG NUCLEIC ACIDS IN PRION DISEASE

<130> C01041.70038

<150> US 60/396,432

<151> 2002-07-17

<160> 19

<170> PatentIn version 3.1

<210> 1

<211> 2415

<212> DNA

<213> Homo sapiens

<400> 1

```

cggcgccgcg agcttctcct ctctcacga ccgaggcaga gcagtcatta tggcgaacct      60
tggctgctgg atgctggttc tctttgtggc cacatggagt gacctgggcc tctgcaagaa      120
gcgcccgaag cctggaggat ggaacactgg gggcagccga taccgggggc agggcagccc      180
tggaggcaac cgctaccac ctcaggcgcg tgggtgctgg gggcagcctc atgggtggtg      240
ctgggggcag cctcatggtg gtggctgggg gcagcccat ggtggtggct ggggacagcc      300
tcatggtggt ggctggggtc aaggaggtgg caccacagt cagtgaaca agccagtaa      360
gccaaaaacc aacatgaagc acatggctgg tgctgcagca gctggggcag tgggtggggg      420
ccttggcggc tacatgctgg gaagtgccat gaggcagccc atcatattc tcggcagtga      480
ctatgaggac cgttactatc gtgaaaacat gcaccgttac cccaaccaag tgtactacag      540
gcccattgat gactacagca accagaacaa ctttgtgcac gactgcgtca atatcacaat      600
caagcagcac acggtcacca caaccacaa gggggagaac ttcaccgaga ccgacgttaa      660
gatgatggag cgcgtggttg agcagatgtg tatcaccag tacgagaggg aatctcaggc      720
ctattaccag agaggatcga gcatggctct cttctcctct ccacctgtga tcctcctgat      780
ctctttcttc atcttctga tagtgggatg aggaaggtct tcctgttttc accatctttc      840
taatcttttt ccagcttgag ggaggcggta tccacctgca gcccttttag tgggtggtgc      900
tcaactctttc ttctctcttt gtcccggata ggctaataaa tacccttggc actgatgggc      960
actggaaaac atagagtaga cctgagatgc tggtaagcc ccctttgatt gagttcatca     1020
tgagccgttg ctaatgccag gccagtaaaa gtataacagc aaataacat tggttaatct     1080
ggacttattt ttggacttag tgcaacaggt tgaggctaaa acaaattctc gaacagtctg     1140

```

aaataccttt gcctggatac ctctggctcc ttcagcagct agagctcagt atactaatgc 1200
 cctatcttag tagagatttc atagctatct agagatattt tccattttta gaaaacccga 1260
 caacatttct gccaggtttg ttaggaggcc acatgatact tattcaaaaa aatcctagag 1320
 attcttagct cttgggatgc aggcacagcc cgctggagca tgagctctgt gtgtaccgag 1380
 aactggggtg atgttttact ttccacagta tgggctacac agcagctgtt caacaagagt 1440
 aaatattgtc acaacactga acctctggct agaggacata ttcacagtga acataactgt 1500
 aacatatatg aaaggcttct gggacttgaa atcaaatgtt tgggaatggt gcccttggag 1560
 gcaacctccc atttttagatg tttaaaggac cctatatgtg gcattccttt ctttaaaacta 1620
 taggtaatta aggagctga aaagtaaatt gccttctaga cactgaaggc aaatctcctt 1680
 tgtccattta cctggaaacc agaagatttt tgacatacag gagagctgca gttgtgaaag 1740
 caccatcatc atagaggatg atgtaattaa aaaatgggtc gtgtgcaaag aaaagaactg 1800
 cttgcatttc tttatttctg tctcataatt gtcaaaaacc agaattaggt caagttcata 1860
 gtttctgtaa ttggcttttg aatcaaagaa tagggagaca atctaaaaaa tatcttaggt 1920
 tggagatgac agaaatatga ttgatttgaa gtggaaaaag aaattctgtt aatgttaatt 1980
 aaagtaaaat tattccctga attgtttgat attgtcacct agcagatatg tattactttt 2040
 ctgcaatggt attattggct tgcactttgt gagtatctat gtaaaaatat atatgtatat 2100
 aaaatatata ttgcatagga cagacttagg agttttgttt agagcagtta acatctgaag 2160
 tgtctaatac attaaacttt gtaagggtact gaataactta tatgtgggaa acccttttgc 2220
 gtggctctta ggcttacaat gtgcactgaa tcgtttcatg taagaatcca aagtggacac 2280
 cattaacagg tctttgaaat atgcatgtac tttatatatt ctatatttgt aactttgcat 2340
 gttcttgttt tggtatataa aaaaattgta aatgtttaat atctgactga aattaaacga 2400
 gcgaagatga gcacc 2415

<210> 2

<211> 2446

<212> DNA

<213> Mustela sp.

<400> 2

tcattttgtt ttgttttgtt ttgtttgcag ataagccatc atggtgaaaa gccacatagg 60
 cagctggctc ctggttctct ttgtggccac atggagtgc attggcttct gcaagaagcg 120
 gccaaagcct ggaggaggct ggaacactgg ggggagccga taccagggc agggcagtc 180
 tggaggcaac cgctaccac cccagggtgg tggcggctgg ggccagcccc acgggggtgg 240

ctggggacag cccacgggg gtggctggg tcagccccac gggggtggct ggggacagcc	300
gcatggtggc ggtggctggg gtcaaggtgg tgggagccac ggtcagtggg gcaagcccag	360
taagcccaaa accaacaatga agcatgtggc gggagccgca gcagccgggg cggtcgtggg	420
gggcctgggc ggctacatgc tggggagcgc catgagcagg cccctcattc attttggcaa	480
cgactatgag gaccgctact accgtgagaa catgtaccgc taccccaacc aagtgtacta	540
caagccggtg gatcagtaca gcaaccagaa caacttcgtg catgactgcg tcaacatcac	600
ggtcaagcag cacacggtga ccaccaccac caagggcgag aacttcacgg agaccgacat	660
gaagatcatg gagcgcgtgg tggagcagat gtgtgtcacc cagtaccagc gagagtccga	720
ggcttactac cagagggggg cgagcgccat cctcttctcg cccctcccg tgatcctcct	780
catctcactg ctcatctctcc tgatagtggg atgaggatgg ccttcccatt ctctccatcg	840
tcttcacctt ttacaggttg ggggaggggg tgtctaccta cagccctgta gtggtggtgt	900
ctcattcctg cttctcttta tcacccatag gctaataccc ttggccctga tggccctggg	960
aaatgtagag cagaccaggg atgctattta ttcaagcccc catgtgttgg agtccttcag	1020
gggccaatgc tagtgcaggg ctgagaataa cagcaaatca tcattggttg acctagggct	1080
gcttttttgt tgttgttgc tagtgcagct gaccgaggct aaaacaattc tcaaaacagt	1140
tttcaaatac cttgcctgg aaacctctgg ctctgctgc agctagagct cagtacatta	1200
atgtcccatc ttagccgtgt cttcatagca acttggggaa gtttttctcc ccactctaaa	1260
agaacgcgat tgcaactccc tgtgcaaaga acatttctgc caaatttgaa aggaggccac	1320
atgatattca ttcaaaaagc aaaactagaa accctttgct cttggacgca agcccgccct	1380
gctaggagca ccaaactggg gcgatgggtt gcattctgcg gcgtgggcta tgcggcagcc	1440
gaggtgtcca gcgtaaatat tgatgcgacg ctagacctag gcagaggatg tttgcacagg	1500
gaatgaacat aatcaacagt gcgaaaatgc tacaaaaaat cccacactgg ggagcagtgt	1560
ccttgaggc aagttttttt ccttttggga catttaaagc ccctatatgt ggcattcctt	1620
tctttcgtaa cctaaactat agataattaa ggcagttaaa aattgaactt ccttccaggc	1680
cccaagagca aatctttgtt cacttacctg gaaaccagaa tgattttgac acagaggaag	1740
gtgcagctgt taaaataacc ctcatcctag aagattgcat catggagaaa acgatccgta	1800
gacaaaaatg atcgcaattc ttcatgtctg tctcgtaatt gacagaaacc agaattatgt	1860
caagtccatg tttctataat cagcttttga atcaagaat ggaagtccat ccaaaaaaaa	1920
aaaagaaata ccttaggtca cccatgacag aaatacccat tcaggttaga aaaaaggaat	1980
tctgttaact gttatttaag taaggcaaaa ttattgtccg gattgttcga tatcatcagc	2040

tagcagataa attagcattc tgcaatgttc cgggcttgca ctgtgcgggt atttgatgtt 2100
 aaaaaaaatt attatatata ttgtgtatga caaacttaga agtttttgct agaggagtta 2160
 acatctgata tatctaagc accaccagtt ttggaaggta ctaaatactt aatatgtaga 2220
 aatccttttg cgtggctctc aggcttacac gtgcactgaa tagttttgta tgatagagcc 2280
 catgtggtct tcgaaatatg catgtacttt atattttcta tatttgtaac tgggcatgta 2340
 cttgtataaa aaatgtataa acattcgaaac tcttgactag aattaaacag gaactgagtg 2400
 tgtcccatgt gtttgacgtg acattcacca cgcaccctg tgttgg 2446

<210> 3
 <211> 810
 <212> DNA
 <213> Mesocricetus auratus

<400> 3
 tcgaaaatct ccctctttag caatttcttg ctctagagt ttcagcaatt gctttctcgc 60
 tccattaggc aacctttcat tttctcacct tcccattat gtaacgggag caatgggttc 120
 tggaccagtc ttccattaaa gatgattttt atagtcggtg agcgccgtca gggagtgatg 180
 acacctgggg gcggtttaaa ccgtacaatc ccttaaacca gtctggagcg gtgactcatt 240
 tccccaggga gaagtggcgc ggccattggt gagcacgacg caagccccgc cccaccagc 300
 ccggccccgc cctgctaccc ctctgactc actgccccgc ccgctcccc gggcgctccg 360
 agcagcagac cgagaaggca catcgagtcc actcgctcgc tcggtggcag gtaagcggct 420
 tctgaagcct ggccccggga agggtgctgg agccaggcct cggtaaagcct tcggcttccc 480
 agagccaagc ccggttact ccggctctcg gggcgctgag gccgcggggc tgagggtgag 540
 tctggctggg aggtgaccgc gcacccgcag ccgcgcgtct ccttgaggga ccgaaccca 600
 ggagaggcca ggagccatcc ctctctccg agcccggtc acccccagag tcgctcgggg 660
 atgggggatg ggggatggg tggcatcttt tgactgtcgt ttgctgtttt cttctctctt 720
 tgtaatagct acagcgaaca taattttacc cagggttcca ccgtgggtctc gtccgtctc 780
 ggcattctctc agtccagtac atacccaagg 810

<210> 4
 <211> 4020
 <212> DNA
 <213> Ovis aries

<400> 4
 atggtgaaaa gccacatagg cagttggatc ctggttctct ttgtggccat gtggagtga 60

gtgggcctct gcaagaagcg accaaaacct ggcggaggat ggaacactgg ggggagccga	120
taccggggac agggcagtc tggaggcaac cgctatccac ctgaggagg ggggtggctgg	180
ggtcagcccc atggaggtgg ctggggccaa cctcatggag gtggctgggg tcagccccat	240
gggtgggtggct ggggacagcc acatgggtgg ggaggctggg gtcaagggtg tagccacagt	300
cagtggaaaca agcccagtaa gccaaaaacc aacatgaagc atgtggcagg agctgctgca	360
gctggagcag tggtaggggg ccttgggtgg tacatgctgg gaagtgccat gagcaggcct	420
cttatacatt ttggcaatga ctatgaggac cgttactatc gtgaaaacat gtaccgttac	480
cccaaccaag tgtactacag accagtggat cagtatagta accagaacaa ctttgtgcat	540
gactgtgtca acatcacagt caagcaacac acagtcacca ccaccacaa gggggagaac	600
ttcaccgaaa ctgacatcaa gataatggag cgagtgggtg agcaaattg catcacccag	660
taccagagag aatcccaggc ttattaccaa aggggggcaa gtgtgatcct cttttcttcc	720
cctcctgtga tcctcctcat ctctttctc atttttctca tagtaggata ggggcaacct	780
tcctgttttc attatcttct taatctttgc caggttgggg gagggagtgt ctacctgcag	840
ccctgtagtg gtggtgtctc atttcttgct tctctctgt tacctgtata ataataacct	900
tggcgcttac agcactggga aatgacaagc agacatgaga tgctgtttat tcaagtccca	960
ttagctcagt attctaattg cccatcttag cagtgatttt gtagcaattt tctcatttgt	1020
ttcaagaaca cctgactaca tttccctttg ggaatagcat ttctgccaag tctggaagga	1080
ggccacataa tattcattca aaaaaacaaa actggaaatc cttagtctcat agaccagggg	1140
tccaccctgt tgagagcatg tgtcctgtgt ctgcagagaa ctataaagga tattctgcat	1200
tttgagggtt acatttgtag gtaacacagc catctattgc atcaagaatg gatattcatg	1260
caacctttga cttatgggca gaggacatct tcacaaggaa tgaacataat acaaaggctt	1320
ctgagactaa aaaattccaa catatggaag aggtgccctt ggtggcagcc ttccattttg	1380
tatgtttaag caccttcaag tgatattcct ttcttttagta acataaagta tagataatta	1440
aggtacctta attaaactac cttctagaca ctgagagcaa atctgttggt tatctggaac	1500
ccaggatgat ttgacattg cttagggatg tgagagttgg actgtaaaga aagctgagtg	1560
ctgaagagtt catgcttttg aactatagtg ttggagaaaa ctcttgagag tcccttggac	1620
tgaaaggaga tcagtcctga atattcattg gaaggactga tgctgaagct gaaactccaa	1680
tactttggtc acctgatggg aagaactgaa ggcaggaggg atgctaggaa agactgaagg	1740
caggaggaga aggggacgac agaggatgag atggctagat ggcatcatgg actcaatgga	1800
catgagctta agtaaactcc aggagttggc aatggacagg gagacctggc gtctgcagt	1860

ccatggtgtc gcagagtcgg acacgattga gtgactaaat tgaggtgacc cagatttaac 1920
atagagaatg cagatacaaa actcatattc atttgattga atcttttcct gaaccagtgc 1980
tagtggttga ctggtaaggg tataacagca tatatagggt atgtgatgaa gagatagtgt 2040
acatgaaata tgtgcatttc tttattgctg tcttataatt gtcaaaaaag aaaattaggt 2100
ccttggtttc tgtaaaattg acttgaatca aaagggaggc atttaaagaa ataaattaga 2160
gatgatagaa atctgatcca ttcagagtag aaaaagaaat tccattactg ttattaaaga 2220
aggtaaaatt attccctgaa ttgttcaata ttgtcaccta gcagatagac actattctgt 2280
actgttttta ctagcttgca ccttggtgta tcctatgtaa aaacatattt gcatatgaca 2340
aactttttct gttagagcaa ttaacatctg aaccacctaa tgcattacct gtttttgtaa 2400
ggtacttttt gtaaggtact aaggagatgt gggtttaatc cctaggtcag gtaaattccc 2460
tagaggaaga aatggcaacc cactccagta ttcttgccag gaaaatccag tgggcagagg 2520
agcctggcag ggtacagtct aagagcatgg gggtgcaaag agtgagacaa gacttgagct 2580
actgaacaat aaggacaata aatgctgggt cggctaaaag gtccattagg tttttttct 2640
gtaagatggc tctagtagta cttgtcttta tcttcattcg aaacaatttt gttagattgt 2700
atgtgacagc tcttgatca gcatgcattt gaaaaaaca tcacaattgg taaatttttg 2760
tatagccatc ttactattga agatggaaga aaagaagcaa aattttcagc atatcatgct 2820
gtacttattt caagaaagat aaccaaaatg caaaaatgta tttgtgaagt gtatggagaa 2880
ggggctgcaa ctgatcaagc ttgtcaaagt agtttgtgaa gtttcgtgct ggagatttct 2940
tattggacga tgctccacag ttggatatac cagttgaagt tgatagtgat caaattgaga 3000
tattgagaat aatcgatgtt ataccacgcg ggagatagct gacatactca aaatatccaa 3060
atagaacctt gaaaaccatt tgcaccatct cagttatgtt aatcactttg atgtttgagt 3120
tccacataag caaaaaaaca acaacaaaaa aaaatacaac cttgaccata tttgcgcatg 3180
cagttctcta ctgaaatgat tgaaaacact ttgtttttaa aaacagattt tgattaacag 3240
tgggtacgat acaataacgt agatggaaga aattgtaggg tgagcaaaat gaaccacacc 3300
accaaaggcc agtcttcctc taaagaagat gtgtgtatgg tgggattgga aagtaatcct 3360
ctattatgga ttcttctgga aaacactgct cctaattaga ccaactgaaa acagcactca 3420
acgaaaagca tccagaatta gtcaatagaa aacataatct tccatcagga taacgcaaga 3480
ctacatattt ctttgatgac ccagcatggc tggagtttct gattcatctg ttgtattcag 3540
acgttgcatc tttggatttt ttccatttat ttcagtctac aaaattatca taatggaaaa 3600

aatttccatt ccctggaaga tgtaaagtgc atctggaaaa tttctttgct caaaaagata 3660
 aaaagttttg tgaacacaga attatgacgt tgcctgaaaa atggcagaag gtagtggaac 3720
 aaaagagtga ctatgttggt tggtaaagtt cttagtgaat atgaaaaatg tgtcttttat 3780
 ttttatttaa acaccaaagg cacattttag caaccaata ctgaatctaa aggaaactct 3840
 tctgtgtgtt gtccttacag tgtgcactga tagtttgat aagaatccag agtgatat 3900
 gaaatacgca tgtgcttata tttttatat ttgtaacttt gcatgtactt gttttgtgtt 3960
 aaaagtttat aaatatttaa tatctgacta aaattaaaca ggagctaaaa ggagtatctt 4020

<210> 5
 <211> 795
 <212> DNA
 <213> Bos taurus

<400> 5
 atgggtgaaaa gccacatagg cagttggatc ctggttctct ttgtggccat gtggagtgc 60
 gtgggcctct gcaagaagcg accaaaacct ggaggaggat ggaacactgg ggggagccga 120
 taccaggac agggcagtc tggaggcaac cgttatccac ctcaggagg ggtggctgg 180
 ggtcagcccc atggaggtgg ctggggccag cctcatggag gtggctgggg ccagcctcat 240
 ggaggtggct ggggtcagcc ccatggtggt ggctggggac agccacatgg tggaggaggc 300
 tggggtcaag gtggtaccca cgggtcaatg aacaaacca gtaagccaaa aaccaacatg 360
 aagcatgtgg caggagctgc tgcagctgga gcagtggtag ggggccttgg tggctacatg 420
 ctgggaagtg ccatgagcag gcctcttata cattttggca gtgactatga ggaccgttac 480
 tatcgtgaaa acatgcaccg ttacccaac caagtgtact acaggccagt ggatcagtat 540
 agtaaccaga acaactttgt gcatgactgt gtcaacatca cagtcaagga acacacagtc 600
 accaccacca ccaaggggga gaacttcacc gaaactgaca tcaagatgat ggagcgagtg 660
 gtggagcaaa tgtgcattac ccagtaccag agagaatccc aggcttatta ccaacgaggg 720
 gcaagtgtga tcctcttctc ttccctctct gtgatectcc tcctctctt cctcattttt 780
 ctcatagtag gatag 795

<210> 6
 <211> 2188
 <212> DNA
 <213> Gallus gallus

<400> 6
 gaattccctc ggcagccagc tcctccctct cgtatattat tcctttctcc cccccctacg 60
 ctggatctgg atcatctcaa gccgagcggg gacggcttct tggatcgctc atacataaat 120

atctgtgagt cagaggaagc aaccaccgac cccaagacct caccgccgagc catgggctagg	180
ctcctcacca cctgctgctt gctggccctg ctgctcgccg cctgcaccga cgtcgccctc	240
tccaagaagg gcaaaggcaa acccagtggg ggggggttggg gcgccgggag ccatcgccag	300
cccagctacc cccgccagcc gggctaccct cataaccagc ggtaccccca taaccagggg	360
tacccccaca accctggcta tccccataac cccggctacc cccagaaccc tggctacccc	420
cataaccagc gttaccaggc ctgggggtcaa ggctacaacc catccagcgg aggaagttac	480
cacaaccaga agccatggaa acccccaaa accaacttca agcacgtggc gggggcagca	540
gcggcgggtg ctgtgggtggg gggcttgggg ggctacgcca tggggcgcggt tatgtcaggg	600
atgaactacc acttcgatag acccgatgag taccgatggg ggagtggaga ctcggcgcggt	660
tatcccaacc ggggttacta ccgggattac agcagcccg tgccacagga cgtcttcgtg	720
gccgattgct ttaacatcac agtgactgag tacagcattg gccctgctgc caagaagaac	780
acctccgagg ctgtggcggc agcaaaccaa acggagggtg agatggagaa caaagtgggtg	840
acgaagggtga tccgcgagat gtgcgtgcag cagtaccgag agtaccgcct ggcctcgggc	900
atccagctgc accctgctga cacctggctc gccgtcctcc tcctcctcct caccaccctt	960
tttgccatgc actgatggga tgccgtgccc cggccctgtg gcagtggagt gacatcgtgt	1020
ccccgtgccc acccatgggg tgttccttgt cctcgctttt gtccatcttt ggtgaagatg	1080
tcccccgct gcctccccgc aggtctctgat ttgggcaaag gggaggggat tttgtcctgt	1140
cctggtcgtg gcaggacggc tgctgggtgg ggagtgggat gcccaaaaaa tggccttcac	1200
cacttcctcc tcctcttctt ttctggggcg gagatatggg ctcgtccagc ccttattgtc	1260
cctgcaagag cgtatctgaa aatcctcttt gctaacaagc agggttttac ctaatctgct	1320
tagccccagt gacagcagag cgcctttccc cagggcacac caacccaag ctgaggtgct	1380
tggcagccac acgtcccatg gaggtgatg ggttttgggg cgtcccaagc aacaccctgg	1440
gctactgagg tgcaattgta gctctttaat ctgccaatcc caaccctacc gtgtagatag	1500
gaactgcctg ctctgcattt tgcattgctg aaacacctcc tgccgcagcg cccccaaaat	1560
agagtgattt gggaatagtg aggtgaagc cacagcagct tgggattggg ctcacatat	1620
caatccatga tgctttgctt ccagctgagc ctactgccc ttttatagcc tgcccagagg	1680
aaggggagcg tgctaaatgc caaaaagggt aacctgagc aaaagcttat ttcaatgtat	1740
gatagagaac gagtgcattt cgacagatc agccatggga gcatcgtttg ccatcagccc	1800
caaaacccaa aggatgctaa aatgcagcca aagggaatc aagcacgcag ggaaggactt	1860

gaatcagctc aactggattg aaatggcaaa aggcattgagt agaacgaacg gcaaggggat 1920
gctggagatc cacctcctgt gagcaaattg ttcatgagcag ccaatggaac tattgcttct 1980
tgtgcttcag ttgtgtctga tgtgtacata ggctgtagca tatgtaaagt tacacgtgtc 2040
aagctgctcg caccgcgtag agctaatatg tatcatgtat gtgggcactg aatgccaccg 2100
ttggccatac ccaaccgtcc taaacgattt tcacgtcgct gtaacttaag tggagatata 2160
ctttcagtat attcagcaaa aggaattc 2188

<210> 7

<211> 2097

<212> DNA

<213> Mus musculus

<400> 7

aattccttca gaactgaacc atttcaaccg agctgaagca ttctgccttc ctagtggtac 60
cagtccaatt taggagagcc aagcagacta tcagtcatca tggcgaacct tggctactgg 120
ctgtggcccc tctttgtgac tatgtggact gatgtcggcc tctgcaaaaa gcggccaaag 180
cctggagggt ggaacaccgg tggagccgg tatcccgggc agggagccc tggaggcaac 240
cgttaccac ctcagggtgg cacctggggg cagccccacg gtggtggctg gggacaacct 300
catgggggca gctggggaca acctcatggt ggtagttggg gtcagcccca tggcggtgga 360
tggggccaag gagggggtac ccataatcag tgggaacaagc ccagcaaac aaaaaccaac 420
ctcaagcatg tggcaggggc tgcggcagct ggggcagtag tggggggcct tgggtggctac 480
atgctgggga gcgccgtgag caggcccatg atccattttg gcaacgactg ggaggaccgc 540
tactaccgtg aaaacatgta ccgctaccct aaccaagtgt actacaggcc agtggatcag 600
tacagcaacc agaacaactt cgtgcacgac tgcgtcaata tcaccatcaa gcagcacacg 660
gtcaccacca ccaccaaggg ggagaacttc accgagaccg atgtgaagat gatggagcgc 720
gtggtggagc agatgtgctg caccagtagc cagaaggagt ccagggccta ttacgacggg 780
agaagatcca gcagcacctg gcttttctcc tccctcctg tcatectcct catctccttc 840
ctcatcttcc tgatcgtggg atgaggagg ccttcctgct tgttccttcg cattctcgtg 900
gtctaggctg ggggaggggt tatccacctg tagctctttc aattgagggt gttctcattc 960
ttgttctct gtgtcccca taggctaata cccctggcac tgatggggcc tgggaaatgt 1020
acagtagacc agttgtctt tgcttcaggt ccctttgatg gagtctgtca tcagccagtg 1080
ctaaccaccg gccaaataaga atataacacc aaataactgc tggctagttg gggctttgtt 1140
ttggtctagt gaataaatac tgggtgtatcc cctgacttgt acccagagta caagggtgaca 1200

gtgacacatg taacttagca taggcaaagg gttctacaac caaagaagcc actgtttggg 1260
 gatggcgccc tggaaaacag cctcccacct gggatagcta gagcatccac acgtggaatt 1320
 ctttctttac taacaaacga tagctgattg aaggcaacaa aaaaaaaaaa atcaaattgt 1380
 cctactgacg ttgaaagcaa acctttgttc attcccaggg cactagaatg atctttagcc 1440
 ttgcttggat tgaactagga gatcttgact ctgaggagag ccagccctgt aaaaagcttg 1500
 gtcctcctgt gacgggaggg atggttaagg tacaaggct agaaactga gtttcttcat 1560
 ttctgtctca caattatcaa aagctagaat tagcttctgc cctatgtttc tgtacttcta 1620
 tttgaactgg ataacagaga gacaatctaa acattctctt aggctgcaga taagagaagt 1680
 aggctccatt ccaaagtggg aaagaaattc tgctagcatt gtttaaatac ggcaaaattt 1740
 gttcctgaag ttgcttttta cccagcaga cataaactgc gatagcttca gcttgcaactg 1800
 tggattttct gtatagaata tataaaacat aacttcaagc ttatgtcttc tttttaaacc 1860
 atctgaagta tgggacgcc tggccgttcc atccagtact aaatgcttac cgtgtgaccc 1920
 ttgggctttc agcgtgcact cagttccgta ggattccaaa gcagaccct agctggctct 1980
 tgaatctgca tgtacttcac gttttctata tttgtaactt tgcattgatt ttgttttgtc 2040
 atataaaaag tttataaatg tttgctatca gactgacatt aaatagaagc tatgatg 2097

<210> 8

<211> 803

<212> DNA

<213> *Ovis aries*

<400> 8

gcagagaagt catcatgggtg aaaagccaca taggcagttg gatcctgggt ctctttgtgg 60
 ccatgtggag tgacgtgggc ctctgcaaga agcgaccaa acctggcgga ggatggaaca 120
 ctgggggggag ccgatacccg ggacagggca gtcctggagg caaccgctat ccacctcagg 180
 gaggggggtgg ctggggtcag ccccatggag gtggctgggg ccaacctcat ggaggtggct 240
 ggggtcagcc ccatggtggt ggctggggac agccacatgg tgggtggagg tgggtcaag 300
 gtggtagcca cagtcagtgg aacaagccca gtaagccaaa aaccaacatg aagcatgtgg 360
 caggagctgc tgcagctgga gcagtggtag ggggccttgg tggctacatg ctgggaagtg 420
 ccatgagcag gcctcttata cattttggca atgactatga ggaccgttac tatcgtgaaa 480
 acatgtaccg ttacccaac caagtgtact acagaccagt ggatcagtat agtaaccaga 540
 acaactttgt gcatgactgt gtcaacatca cagtcaagca acacacagtc accaccacca 600
 ccaaggggga gaattcacc gaaactgaca tcaagataat ggagcgagtg gtggagcaaa 660

tgtgcatcac ccagtaccag agagaatccc aggcttatta ccaaaggggg gcaagtgtga 720
 tcctcttttc ttccctcct gtgatcctcc tcatctcttt cctcattttt ctcatagtag 780
 gataggggca accttcctgt ttt 803

<210> 9
 <211> 765
 <212> DNA
 <213> Rattus norvegicus

<400> 9
 atggcgaacc ttggctactg gctgctggcc ctctttgtga ctacatgtac tgatgttggc 60
 ctctgcaaaa agcggccaaa gcctggaggg tggaacactg gtggaagccg gtaccctggg 120
 caggggaagcc ctggaggcaa ccgttaccca cctcagagtg gtggtacctg ggggcagccc 180
 catggtggtg gctggggaca acctcatggt ggtggctggg gacaacctca tgggtgtggc 240
 tggggtcagc cccatggcgg gggctggagt caaggagggg gtaccataa tcagtggaac 300
 aagcccagca agccaaaaac caacctcaag catgtggcag gggctgccgc agctggggca 360
 gtagtggggg gccttggtgg ctacatgttg gggagtgcc tggagcaggcc catgctccat 420
 tttggcaacg actgggagga ccgctactac cgagaaaaca tgtaccgtta ccctaaccaa 480
 gtgtactaca ggccggtgga tcagtacagc aaccagaaca acttcgtgca cgactgtgtc 540
 aatatcacca tcaagcagca tacagtcacc accaccacca agggggagaa cttcacggag 600
 accgacgtga agatgatgga gcgtgtggtg gagcagatgt gcgtcaccca gtatcagaag 660
 gagtcccagg cctattacga cgggagaaga tctagcgccg tgcttttctc ctccctcct 720
 gtgatectcc tcatctcctt cctcatcttc ctgacgtgg gatga 765

<210> 10
 <211> 253
 <212> PRT
 <213> Homo sapiens

<400> 10

Met Ala Asn Leu Gly Cys Trp Met Leu Val Leu Phe Val Ala Thr Trp
 1 5 10 15

Ser Asp Leu Gly Leu Cys Lys Lys Arg Pro Lys Pro Gly Gly Trp Asn
 20 25 30

Thr Gly Gly Ser Arg Tyr Pro Gly Gln Gly Ser Pro Gly Gly Asn Arg
 35 40 45

Tyr Pro Pro Gln Gly Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly
50 55 60

Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly
65 70 75 80

Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Gly Gly Gly Thr His
85 90 95

Ser Gln Trp Asn Lys Pro Ser Lys Pro Lys Thr Asn Met Lys His Met
100 105 110

Ala Gly Ala Ala Ala Ala Gly Ala Val Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Tyr
115 120 125

Met Leu Gly Ser Ala Met Ser Arg Pro Ile Ile His Phe Gly Ser Asp
130 135 140

Tyr Glu Asp Arg Tyr Tyr Arg Glu Asn Met His Arg Tyr Pro Asn Gln
145 150 155 160

Val Tyr Tyr Arg Pro Met Asp Glu Tyr Ser Asn Gln Asn Asn Phe Val
165 170 175

His Asp Cys Val Asn Ile Thr Ile Lys Gln His Thr Val Thr Thr Thr
180 185 190

Thr Lys Gly Glu Asn Phe Thr Glu Thr Asp Val Lys Met Met Glu Arg
195 200 205

Val Val Glu Gln Met Cys Ile Thr Gln Tyr Glu Arg Glu Ser Gln Ala
210 215 220

Tyr Tyr Gln Arg Gly Ser Ser Met Val Leu Phe Ser Ser Pro Pro Val
225 230 235 240

Ile Leu Leu Ile Ser Phe Leu Ile Phe Leu Ile Val Gly
245 250

<210> 11
<211> 263
<212> PRT
<213> Bos taurus

<400> 11

Met Val Lys Ser His Ile Gly Ser Trp Ile Leu Val Leu Phe Val Ala
 1 5 10 15

Met Trp Ser Asp Val Gly Leu Cys Lys Lys Arg Pro Lys Pro Gly Gly
 20 25 30

Trp Asn Thr Gly Gly Ser Arg Tyr Pro Gly Gln Gly Ser Pro Gly Gly
 35 40 45

Asn Arg Tyr Pro Pro Gln Gly Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly
 50 55 60

Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly
 65 70 75 80

Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly
 85 90 95

Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Gly Gly Thr His Gly Gln Trp Asn Lys Pro
 100 105 110

Ser Lys Pro Lys Thr Asn Met Lys His Val Ala Gly Ala Ala Ala Ala
 115 120 125

Gly Ala Val Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Tyr Met Leu Gly Ser Ala Met
 130 135 140

Ser Arg Pro Leu Ile His Phe Gly Ser Asp Tyr Glu Asp Arg Tyr Tyr
 145 150 155 160

Arg Glu Asn Met His Arg Tyr Pro Asn Gln Val Tyr Tyr Arg Pro Val
 165 170 175

Asp Gln Tyr Ser Asn Gln Asn Asn Phe Val His Asp Cys Val Asn Ile
 180 185 190

Thr Val Lys Glu His Thr Val Thr Thr Thr Thr Lys Gly Glu Asn Phe
 195 200 205

Thr Glu Thr Asp Ile Lys Met Met Glu Arg Val Val Glu Gln Met Cys
 210 215 220

Val Thr Gln Tyr Gln Lys Glu Ser Gln Ala Tyr Tyr Asp Gln Gly Ala
 225 230 235 240

Ser Val Ile Leu Phe Ser Ser Pro Pro Val Ile Leu Leu Ile Ser Phe
 245 250 255

Leu Ile Phe Leu Ile Val Gly
 260

<210> 12
 <211> 264
 <212> PRT
 <213> Bos taurus

<400> 12

Met Val Lys Ser His Ile Gly Ser Trp Ile Leu Val Leu Phe Val Ala
 1 5 10 15

Met Trp Ser Asp Val Gly Leu Cys Lys Lys Arg Pro Lys Pro Gly Gly
 20 25 30

Gly Trp Asn Thr Gly Gly Ser Arg Tyr Pro Gly Gln Gly Ser Pro Gly
 35 40 45

Gly Asn Arg Tyr Pro Pro Gln Gly Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His
 50 55 60

Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His
 65 70 75 80

Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His
 85 90 95

Gly Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Gly Gly Thr His Gly Gln Trp Asn Lys
 100 105 110

Pro Ser Lys Pro Lys Thr Asn Met Lys His Val Ala Gly Ala Ala Ala
 115 120 125

Ala Gly Ala Val Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Tyr Met Leu Gly Ser Ala
 130 135 140

Met Ser Arg Pro Leu Ile His Phe Gly Ser Asp Tyr Glu Asp Arg Tyr
 145 150 155 160

Tyr Arg Glu Asn Met His Arg Tyr Pro Asn Gln Val Tyr Tyr Arg Pro
 165 170 175

Val Asp Gln Tyr Ser Asn Gln Asn Asn Phe Val His Asp Cys Val Asn
 180 185 190

Ile Thr Val Lys Glu His Thr Val Thr Thr Thr Thr Lys Gly Glu Asn
 195 200 205

Phe Thr Glu Thr Asp Ile Lys Met Met Glu Arg Val Val Glu Gln Met
 210 215 220

Cys Ile Thr Gln Tyr Gln Arg Glu Ser Gln Ala Tyr Tyr Gln Arg Gly
 225 230 235 240

Ala Ser Val Ile Leu Phe Ser Ser Pro Pro Val Ile Leu Leu Ile Ser
 245 250 255

Phe Leu Ile Phe Leu Ile Val Gly
 260

<210> 13
 <211> 255
 <212> PRT
 <213> Ovis aries

<400> 13

Met Val Lys Ser His Ile Gly Ser Trp Ile Leu Val Leu Phe Val Ala
 1 5 10 15

Met Trp Ser Asp Val Gly Leu Cys Lys Lys Arg Pro Lys Pro Gly Gly
 20 25 30

Trp Asn Thr Gly Gly Ser Arg Tyr Pro Gly Gln Gly Ser Pro Gly Gly
 35 40 45

Asn Arg Tyr Pro Pro Gln Gly Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly
 50 55 60

Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly
 65 70 75 80

Gly Ser Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Gly Gly
 85 90 95

Ser His Ser Gln Trp Asn Lys Pro Ser Lys Pro Lys Thr Asn Met Lys
 100 105 110

His Val Ala Gly Ala Ala Ala Ala Gly Ala Val Val Gly Gly Leu Gly
115 120 125

Gly Tyr Met Leu Gly Ser Ala Met Ser Arg Pro Leu Ile His Phe Gly
130 135 140

Asn Asp Tyr Glu Asp Arg Tyr Tyr Arg Glu Asn Met Tyr Arg Tyr Pro
145 150 155 160

Asn Gln Val Tyr Tyr Arg Pro Val Asp Gln Tyr Ser Asn Gln Asn Asn
165 170 175

Phe Val His Asp Cys Val Asn Ile Thr Val Lys Gln His Thr Val Thr
180 185 190

Thr Thr Thr Lys Gly Glu Asn Phe Thr Glu Thr Asp Ile Lys Ile Met
195 200 205

Glu Arg Val Val Glu Gln Met Cys Ile Thr Gln Tyr Gln Arg Glu Ser
210 215 220

Gln Ala Tyr Tyr Gln Arg Gly Ala Ser Val Ile Leu Phe Ser Ser Pro
225 230 235 240

Pro Val Ile Leu Leu Ile Ser Phe Leu Ile Phe Leu Ile Val Gly
245 250 255

<210> 14
<211> 256
<212> PRT
<213> Ovis aries

<400> 14

Met Val Lys Ser His Ile Gly Ser Trp Ile Leu Val Leu Phe Val Ala
1 5 10 15

Met Trp Ser Asp Val Gly Leu Cys Lys Lys Arg Pro Lys Pro Gly Gly
20 25 30

Gly Trp Asn Thr Gly Gly Ser Arg Tyr Pro Gly Gln Gly Ser Pro Gly
35 40 45

Gly Asn Arg Tyr Pro Pro Gln Gly Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His
50 55 60

Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His
65 70 75 80

Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Gly
85 90 95

Gly Ser His Ser Gln Trp Asn Lys Pro Ser Lys Pro Lys Thr Asn Met
100 105 110

Lys His Val Ala Gly Ala Ala Ala Gly Ala Val Val Gly Gly Leu
115 120 125

Gly Gly Tyr Met Leu Gly Ser Ala Met Ser Arg Pro Leu Ile His Phe
130 135 140

Gly Asn Asp Tyr Glu Asp Arg Tyr Tyr Arg Glu Asn Met Tyr Arg Tyr
145 150 155 160

Pro Asn Gln Val Tyr Tyr Arg Pro Val Asp Gln Tyr Ser Asn Gln Asn
165 170 175

Asn Phe Val His Asp Cys Val Asn Ile Thr Val Lys Gln His Thr Val
180 185 190

Thr Thr Thr Thr Lys Gly Glu Asn Phe Thr Glu Thr Asp Ile Lys Ile
195 200 205

Met Glu Arg Val Val Glu Gln Met Cys Ile Thr Gln Tyr Gln Arg Glu
210 215 220

Ser Gln Ala Tyr Tyr Gln Arg Gly Ala Ser Val Ile Leu Phe Ser Ser
225 230 235 240

Pro Pro Val Ile Leu Leu Ile Ser Phe Leu Ile Phe Leu Ile Val Gly
245 250 255

<210> 15
<211> 254
<212> PRT
<213> Mus musculus

<400> 15

Met Ala Asn Leu Gly Tyr Trp Leu Leu Ala Leu Phe Val Thr Met Trp
1 5 10 15

Thr Asp Val Gly Leu Cys Lys Lys Arg Pro Lys Pro Gly Gly Trp Asn
 20 25 30

Thr Gly Gly Ser Arg Tyr Pro Gly Gln Gly Ser Pro Gly Gly Asn Arg
 35 40 45

Tyr Pro Pro Gln Gly Gly Thr Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp
 50 55 60

Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Ser Trp Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Ser Trp
 65 70 75 80

Gly Gln Pro His Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Gly Gly Gly Thr His Asn
 85 90 95

Gln Trp Asn Lys Pro Ser Lys Pro Lys Thr Asn Leu Lys His Val Ala
 100 105 110

Gly Ala Ala Ala Ala Gly Ala Val Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Tyr Met
 115 120 125

Leu Gly Ser Ala Met Ser Arg Pro Met Ile His Phe Gly Asn Asp Trp
 130 135 140

Glu Asp Arg Tyr Tyr Arg Glu Asn Met Tyr Arg Tyr Pro Asn Gln Val
 145 150 155 160

Tyr Tyr Arg Pro Val Asp Gln Tyr Ser Asn Gln Asn Asn Phe Val His
 165 170 175

Asp Cys Val Asn Ile Thr Ile Lys Gln His Thr Val Thr Thr Thr Thr
 180 185 190

Lys Gly Glu Asn Phe Thr Glu Thr Asp Val Lys Met Met Glu Arg Val
 195 200 205

Val Glu Gln Met Cys Val Thr Gln Tyr Gln Lys Glu Ser Gln Ala Tyr
 210 215 220

Tyr Asp Gly Arg Arg Ser Ser Ser Thr Val Leu Phe Ser Ser Pro Pro
 225 230 235 240

Val Ile Leu Leu Ile Ser Phe Leu Ile Phe Leu Ile Val Gly
 245 250

<210> 16
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Mus musculus

<400> 16

Gly Gly Gly Trp Gly Gln Pro His
1 5

<210> 17
<211> 8
<212> PRT
<213> Mus musculus

<400> 17

Gly Gly Ser Trp Gly Gln Pro His
1 5

<210> 18
<211> 20
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial sequence

<220>
<223> Synthetic oligonucleotide

<400> 18
tccatgacgt tcctgacgtt

20

<210> 19
<211> 24
<212> DNA
<213> Artificial sequence

<220>
<223> Synthetic oligonucleotide

<400> 19
tcgtcgtttt gtcgttttgt cggt

24

THIS PAGE BLANK (uspto)